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Pentagon Will Test Military Recruits for HTLV-III

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A modest proposal?

Military to Screen Recruits for HTLV-III

By Stephanie Poggi

WASHINGTON, DC — In what Pentagon officials are calling a "modest" first step, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced August 30 it will screen all prospective military recruits for the HTLV-III antibody. Those testing positive on both ELISA and Western Blot tests will be rejected from the military.

Still pending before the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board is a decision about whether to also screen all women and men who are currently in the service. Further, the DoD has ordered military and civilian blood banks to turn over the names of military donors who test positive for the HTLV-III antibody. The order, originally to be implemented June 30, was delayed pending reevaluation by the epidemiological board which is a civilian body. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 4)

According to Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Peter Wyro, the primary rationale for testing new recruits, which will begin October 1, is to protect the recruits themselves from other illnesses they could be in danger of contracting during military duty. Although Wyro acknowledged that a positive HTLV-III test is not an indicator of AIDS, immune dysfunction, or of ability to transmit the virus, he told *GCN* he believes a positive HTLV-III test "foreshadows serious illness."

Specifically, Wyro maintained

that the military inoculates recruits with live smallpox virus, a practice which would endanger persons with an immune deficiency. Second, recruits "must be deployed worldwide," possibly in regions of the world where there is a high incidence of tuberculosis. Again, a person with immune deficiency would be at substantial risk of contracting the illness, said Wyro. Third, on the battlefield, military personnel are sometimes used as blood donors when transfusions are necessary. Wyro said DoD reasoned that persons with a positive HTLV-III test may transmit the virus or AIDS in giving blood.

When asked if the military tests for other viruses or immune deficiencies that have no relation to AIDS, Wyro appeared uncertain. Standard physical exams for recruits are very general, and usually involve only specific testing for syphilis and German measles. Kathy Gilberd, of the National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force, told *GCN*, "If not for homophobia, we would not be seeing this."

Lesbian and gay activists involved in AIDS work have loudly opposed such testing, calling it a smokescreen for identifying gay men in the military and a misuse of HTLV-III testing, which was developed to screen blood, not individuals. In addition, activists have stressed that in a military set-

ting, confidentiality of test results is hardly likely.

Wyro claims information about HTLV-III testing will be sacrosanct, with "nothing entered into [the recruit's] general file except that [the recruit] was not admitted due to a medical problem." According to Kathy Gilberd, however, "If it's in the file, it's fair game. The material will probably not be massively available, but the Pentagon's attention to confidentiality has historically not been great." John Wall, co-chair of the San Francisco-based Mobilization Against AIDS, said, "I don't believe for one minute the assurances of some highly paid official who gets up and says this will be confidential.... This is the beginning of a witchhunt."

Further, should the DoD decide to test all current military service people, the threat to confidentiality would be much greater. According to Gilberd, even if DoD attempted to maintain confidentiality about the results of HTLV-III testing, it would not only be extremely difficult, but, in fact, "a departure from regulation and practice." Gilberd urged military personnel who believe they may have been exposed to HTLV-III to "seek civilian medical and legal people out before [going through] the military." But, she added, "If everybody's being pulled in for testing, it'll be impossible." She added that even if those testing

positive are not immediately "subject to discharge proceedings, [there is] the likelihood of harassment from the command — official and unofficial."

Wyro insists that a military service person testing positive for HTLV-III would be given further medical testing and care and allowed to remain in the service unless medically unable to do so. When asked if a gay man would be discharged if information about his sexuality were found in his

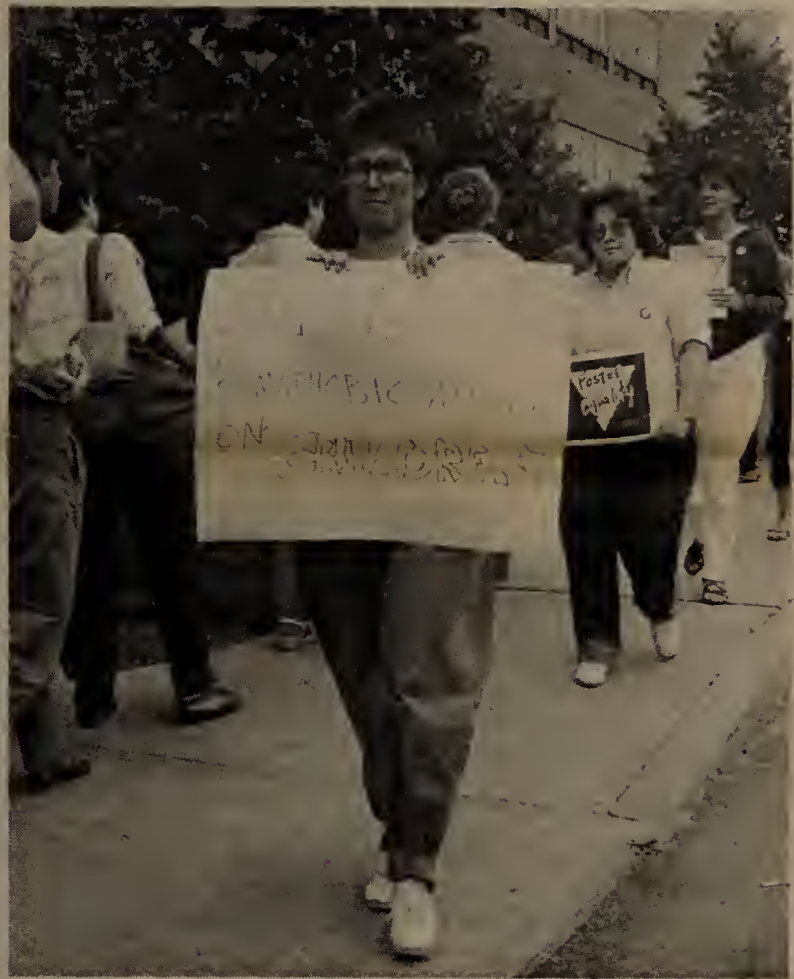
medical file, Wyro again maintained it would be held in the strictest confidence.

Lt. Col. Anthony Polk, head of the DoD Military Blood Program, admitted, however, that while generally he believes "patient-doctor confidentiality will be maintained, if you say that [you're gay] to a physician, and he's hardcore, it may not be maintained."

While Wyro denied testing of personnel would be used to screen

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DSS Goes Thru the Motions



Demonstrators march outside Worcester hearings.

By Christine Guilfooy

WORCESTER, MA — Culminating two years of work, the Department of Social Services (DSS) issued its new regulations, holding a public hearing in Worcester on August 22. But judging by the testimony, the most controversial aspect of the 250-page volume of regulations still centers on one page, the page which describes placement preference.

Although approximately 75 percent of the testimony was about foster placement in the homes of single parents and gay and lesbian parents, Commissioner Marie Matava insists that the policy, which provides a hierarchy of placements with the "traditional family" receiving preference, is simply misunderstood. She told *GCN* following the hearing that she heard nothing in the testimony which would lead her to think differently about the new regulations or to change them.

Although it was clear that public testimony on the placement policy would have no real effect on its final form, the hearings were nonetheless interesting for the variety of testimony, by speakers such as union representatives, legislators, legal workers, and clinicians as well as foster parents and former foster children. All

told, it has become clear that this is not a popular policy, at least with people willing to travel a distance to express their opinions.

The Reverend Kathy Piccard, an Episcopal priest, presented her story and used it as illustrative of the weaknesses in the policy. Over the past six years, she told the DSS panel, she has been a foster parent to 17 youngsters. When DSS approached her to take in a teenage girl, she agreed. When filling out the questionnaire, she was asked by the case worker what her sexual orientation/preference was, to which she replied "private." "The homefinder, who has known me several years," testified Piccard, "forwarded the placement proposal to the central office, presumably considering it the best placement for the child. But they immediately decided not to place the child with me, and they admittedly did this without any clinical judgment of her individual needs, but just because of my answer. Did she have to go far away, and thus lose her job? Did she have to go to one of the teen shelters, because there were no 'ideal' families under the state's new policy? I don't know."

Piccard told the DSS panel that

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Western civ. cited

Texas Sodomy Law Stands

By Gordon Gottlieb

NEW ORLEANS — A U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that Texas' sodomy laws directed against homosexuals are constitutional, reversing a lower court decision. The ruling released by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on August 26 cites "the strong objection to homosexual conduct which has prevailed in Western culture for the past seven centuries" as part of its justification.

An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court is under consideration, and gay and legal activists have renewed efforts to mount a challenge to laws that criminalize gay sex.

Texas activists immediately responded to the ruling with a candlelight rally on September 2, called to "reconfirm the dignity and integrity of gay people in this city and to signal the beginning of a renewed activity on all fronts," according to Bill Nelson of the Dallas Gay Alliance (DGA). An estimated 1700 men and women assembled at Dallas City Hall, where speakers from the DGA, Dallas Women's Political Caucus, Metropolitan Community Church, and the Dallas City Council addressed the crowd. The impact on local anti-discrimination laws and prosecution of gay men for public and private sex is still unknown.

The court's nine-to-seven decision in the *Baker v. Wade* decision upholds a Texas Penal Code law that forbids engaging in "deviate sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex." Under Texas law, deviate sexual intercourse is defined as "any contact

between any part of the genitals of one person and the mouth or anus of another person."

Last May, another U.S. Court of Appeals issued a ruling which contradicts that of the Fifth Circuit. In *Hardwick v. Bowers*, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the state of Georgia's sodomy law "infringes upon the fundamental constitutional rights of the homosexual.... [T]he state must prove in order to prevail that it has a compelling interest in regulating this behavior." (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 3.)

Calling the decision "devastating," Nancy Langer, public information director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the conflicting rulings of the two appeals courts make a Supreme Court ruling all the more important. "After 15 years of avoiding challenges [to sodomy laws], it's time for the Supreme Court to decide. We'd like the Court to issue a decision on this burning public policy issue."

Langer said that efforts to challenge states' sodomy laws have been coordinated by litigators for the last year, and that they plan to bring the "strongest possible case" to the High Court.

Attorney James Barber of Dallas, who represented plaintiff Donald Baker, told *GCN* no decision has been made yet about appealing the ruling. An appeal to the Supreme Court must be filed within 90 days of the decision's issuance, but the Court is not obliged to accept the case; the other option is to ask the Fifth Cir-

cuit Court to reconsider the case.

Given the conservative make-up of both courts, neither option is viewed as optimal. Barber points out that six of the nine judges who voted for the majority opinion were appointed by Ronald Reagan, who has filled the federal court system with "corporate lawyer types — conservative, upper-middle class, white males who have no sense of concern for civil rights." Barber called the brief, three-page decision a "flagrantly political piece of writing not dealing with the case." Barber vehemently criticized gay and lesbian Republicans who supported Reagan, who in turn appointed a reactionary judiciary. Barber urged them to switch their support to gay and lesbian causes.

The plaintiff in the case, Donald Baker, could not be reached at press time.

The *Baker* decision is important because sodomy laws are the foundation of anti-gay discrimination, according to Gara La Marche, executive director of the Texas Civil Liberties Union. "It is the biggest barrier to other civil rights progress in such areas as education, employment and housing.... I don't necessarily expect a mass round-up, D.A.'s won't necessarily start prosecuting gay men, but we must be vigilant."

Both Barber and La Marche were highly critical of part of the majority opinion that made reference to a 700-year tradition of "strong objection to homosexual conduct." "This forms an incredible legal basis," La Marche said.

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News Notes

quote of the week

“This is not a genuine debtor seeking relief from a genuine creditor, but a company that is trying to be protected from women it knowingly injured.”

— Aaron Levine, attorney for the National Women’s Health Network which has challenged a bid for bankruptcy protection brought by A.H. Robins, maker of the Dalkon Shield contraceptive device, as reported in the Boston *Globe*.

RICHMOND, VA — The National Women’s Health Network filed a challenge in District Court here August 22 to the A.H. Robins Co’s attempt to declare bankruptcy, according to the Boston *Globe*. Bankruptcy protection would have the immediate effect of delaying about 5,100 pending suits from women who charge they were injured by the company’s Dalkon Shield.

Robins, based in Richmond, filed its petition to reorganize under the bankruptcy laws on August 21. The company said it is financially healthy, but was filing due to “the continuing burden on litigation related to the Dalkon Shield.”

“What A.H. Robins is trying to do is outrageous. It’s another indication of its corporate irresponsibility,” said Victoria Leonard, executive director of the Network. U.S. sales of the shield from 1970-74 have thus far resulted in more than 14,300 lawsuits by women who claim to have suffered pelvic infections, sterility, and involuntary abortion. As of this spring, Robins and its insurer had paid approximately \$387.3 million for 9,230 cases and \$107.3 million in legal expenses. The suits now on hold pending a decision of the company’s bankruptcy petition seek millions of dollars in damages.

According to attorney Aaron Levine, the network challenge to the bankruptcy petition is brought on behalf of the 15,000-member women’s health group as well as 88 women he represents who have suits pending against A.H. Robins.

Recent court battles have uncovered evidence that Robins’ executives were aware of the harmful effects of the shield, but continued to promote the device, selling about 2.8 million Dalkons in the U.S. and overseas.

the case of the battered testicles

TORONTO — Owen Yuen, a Canadian man accused of committing an “indecent act,” was ultimately acquitted in his 1983 trial, but not before being subjected to some rather bizarre theories about the characteristics of gay male sexual organs. *The Body Politic* reports that Yuen had complained that the arresting officers had assaulted him. His attorney, Peter Maloney, called Dr. Gabriel Leung to testify regarding the extent of the injuries. In addition to facial bruises, wrist abrasions, and a broken tooth, Dr. Leung testified that Owen Yuen’s scrotum was “grossly swollen” and that he had suffered “extensive bruising” of his scrotal sack. Asked whether these injuries were consistent with an assault, Dr. Leung replied that they were. But, unlike the gullible Dr. Leung, Crown Attorney Marrisae Goebbels implied she knew the real reason for Owen Yuen’s battered testicles. What follows is an edited version of the court transcript.

GOEBBELS: Are you able to say whether any of these injuries or physical trauma that the accused displayed is consistent with vigorous homosexual activity?

LEUNG: I don’t think so.

GOEBBELS: Have you ever seen any homosexual male — have you ever examined the reproductive organs of a homosexual male?

LEUNG: No.

GOEBBELS: I can’t ask you any more questions then. Thank you.

robust debate

WILMINGTON, DE — The Wilmington City Council squelched a lesbian and gay rights bill on August 15 by a 10-2 vote, according to the Philadelphia *Gay News*. The bill, which would have outlawed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in some city contracts, housing and public accommodations, did not even receive the votes of all its co-sponsors. Theopalis Gregory explained his no vote, saying he had only become a co-sponsor “to allow for robust debate.”

Opposing the bill were representatives of the Delaware chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Union Baptist Church, and a self-described “civil rights lawyer” representing “city residents, property owners or those employed here.”

Arguing in favor were four gay and lesbian activists: Ivo Dominguez, Jr., of the Wilmington Civil Rights Commission, Susan Eggest and Cyrella Caldwell, of the Delaware NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force, and Reverend Jim Hensley, pastor of Immanuel Metropolitan Community Church.

lesbian/gay disabled people’s penpal group

TEANECK, NJ — A network of disabled lesbians and gay men has formed to provide a national and possibly international penpal service and supportive space for interested participants. For more information, write to D.C. Burnet-Gocht, P.O. Box 3308, Teaneck, N.J. 07666. Enclose one dollar for a list of prospective penpals.

lesbian, gay, bisexual conference

AMHERST, MA — A conference in celebration of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals will take place October 19-20 at Hampshire College here. Sponsored by Valley Gay Alliance; Face to Face: A Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau; the Lifeline Institute; and the Hampshire College Women’s Center, the gathering features 30 workshops, caucus meeting times, and social events. It will be wheelchair-accessible and signed for the hearing-impaired. Childcare is available.

Topics of workshops include: unlearning racism, body hatred and fat liberation, lesbian health issues, aging women, choosing a bisexual identity, gay men of color, lesbians of color, coming out, incest: theory and healing, gay fathers, gay men and aging, myths and realities of AIDS, having children, and much more.

For a brochure and registration information, send a SASE to Conference, Box 118, Amherst, MA 01004-0118.

bangor unitarians

BANGOR, ME — The 167-year-old Unitarian Church of Bangor — which this July conducted a memorial service for Charlie Howard, a gay man and member of the church, who was murdered by a teenage gang — has elected an openly gay minister.

Rev. Dr. F. Jay Deacon, acting director of information at the Unitarian-Universalist Association of Boston, begins duties in August.

The church is the site of weekly gay and lesbian dances sponsored by Interweave, an organization of Unitarian-Universalist Gays and Lesbians in Maine and the meeting place of the Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition, organized following the murder.

The denomination, which has more than 1,000 congregations and 176,000 members, follows an official policy of nondiscrimination and affirmative action toward lesbian and gay ministers.

flag convention

ATLANTA — The fourth convention of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. (FLAG) will be held here October 25-28. For more information, or to register, write FLAG, P.O. Box 24565, L.A., CA 90024, or call (213) 472-8952.

defend maura o’shea

BIRMINHGAM, England — Women’s and progressive groups in England are organizing a defense campaign for Maura O’Shea, an Irish physician who has been arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). Dr. O’Shea, who has lived and worked in England for 30 years, was a founder, in 1981, of the Irish in Britain Representation Group, which has been working for repeal of the PTA as well as challenging anti-Irish policy in England. O’Shea has also been active in the anti-psychiatry movement. She faces trial in the fall on charges of “conspiracy to cause an explosion in the United Kingdom.”

The PTA is a police powers bill that allows British police to arrest and detain for seven days any suspect Irish person. O’Shea, now out on bail, was held in solitary confinement for five weeks. British police had searched her home and removed papers and files, including records of clients, prior to her arrest.

O’Shea has since been fired from her job as has her daughter, a youth and community development worker.

The Dr. Maura O’Shea Support Committee is organizing a petition campaign and a letter-writing campaign to MPs and the Home Minister. All forms of support are needed, especially contributions to her defense fund to offset legal fees and help in outreach work. For more information and to send money, write to: Dr. Maura O’Shea Support Committee, c/o 448 Stratford Rd., Birmingham, England, 114 AE. Telephone: 021-773-8683.

a survey of black lesbian relationships

LOS ANGELES — A survey exploring the many aspects of Black lesbian relationships is currently being conducted by University of California researchers here, headed by Dr. Vickie Mays. In particular, the researchers are interested in documenting those things which make it easier or more difficult for Black lesbians to find and keep friendships and lover relationships. The study hopes to discover ways to decrease the stresses Black lesbians face in their intimate relationships by uncovering what Black women look for and want in these relationships. All answers are confidential. If interested in participating, please call (213)-396-4906 to have a questionnaire mailed to you or send a postcard to Dr. Vickie M. Mays, Black Women’s Relationship Project, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., L.A., CA 90024.

only the best will do

WASHINGTON, DC — The House subcommittee overseeing research on AIDS has hired an “expert on AIDS” — you guessed it — none other than renowned homophobe Paul Cameron.

According to the Philadelphia *Gay News*, Rep. William Dannemayer (R-CA), senior member of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health and environment, hired Cameron as a consultant for one month at the fee of \$2,000.

Dannemayer asserts Cameron’s expulsion from the American Psychology Association and the Nebraska Psychology Association was accomplished by people who have abandoned their “moral compass.”

Among other favorite rallying cries, Cameron regularly announces that all homosexuals should be quarantined to stop the spread of AIDS.

Acting on Cameron’s expert advise, Dannemayer has stated he will demand that Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler ban all blood and organ donations by gay men.

So much for overseeing research on AIDS.

We at the GCN Prisoner Project often get letters from prisoners who are really being treated rudely (above and beyond the usual terrorism of the prison business) because of their being queer: sexual assaults, denial of lesbian and gay publications, transfer to other prisons when they try to file protests. It’s a frustrating experience for us because, to begin with, prisoners are often hard to contact (even by mail!) especially at times when the prison is harassing them. This is one of the tools of the prison trade: what the folks outside don’t know about won’t make them angry.

But prisoners are especially hard to contact and support from long distances. Prison officials in Attica, N.Y., and Soledad, Calif., are much more responsive to letters, etc., from Buffalo/Rochester and San Francisco than they are to letters and press coverage from Boston. They’re afraid that local media or some local group or lawyer might get involved and burst their net of secrecy and call public attention to something the officials want to keep behind their walls.

So we’re going to try to put together some information about individuals, groups, media, etc., in the vicinity of prisons where we have lesbian or gay readers. Any information of this sort that you might have is of interest to us. For example, information about individuals who would be willing on a now-and-then basis to write a letter of support at a critical moment to a prisoner (not necessarily as a penpal, just helping out in a hard time and at the same time letting the prison officials know that the person does have some contact with the outside), or maybe a letter of protest to a warden or to the local media: such information would be very helpful in critical moments for these incredibly vulnerable people.

Let us hear from you so we can begin to compile a network of resources in the vicinity of each prison where we have readers. Any information at all (it needn’t be strictly lesbian or gay resources) would be appreciated, as would any relevant ideas or experience you want to add regarding prisoner support.

Thank you.

For September 10 primaries

BLGPA, Rainbow Announce Endorsements

By Christine Guilfooy

BOSTON — On Tuesday, September 10, the primary elections will be held in Boston. Below are the endorsements of two political organizations in the City Council and the School Committee races.

* * *

The Rainbow Coalition endorsements are:

City Council:

At Large: Michael Kane and Willie Mae Allen

District 4: Charles Yancey

District 7: Bruce Bolling

District 8: David Scondras

District 9: Brian McLaughlin

School Committee:

At Large: Jean McGuire and John O'Bryant

District 2: David S. King

District 4: Shirley Owens Hicks

District 7: Juanita Brooks Wade

District 8: Abigail Browne

District 9: Rosina Kitty Bowman

The Rainbow Coalition grew out of the Boston mayoral campaign of Mel King. The Coalition has remained active, and a press statement issued by the Boston chapter lists its priority issues as "housing and land development, education, community control by community residents, jobs, and basic human and civil rights for all people."

* * *

The Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (BLGPA) also recently announced its endorsements:

City Council:

At Large: Michael McCormack, Christopher Iannella, Willie Mae Allen, and Michael Kane

District 7: Bruce Bolling

District 8: David Scondras

District 9: Brian McLaughlin

School Committee:

At Large: Jean McGuire and John O'Bryant

District 2: David S. King

District 7: Juanita Wade

District 8: Abigail Browne

BLGPA sponsored two candidates nights and made their endorsements based on the candidates' responses to a brief questionnaire, their appearances before the group, and their willingness to be publicly endorsed by the organization.

The first night featured at-large candidates from both the city council and the school committee. Councillors-at-large Willie Allen, Ken Davis, Christopher Iannella, Michael Kane, Frederick Langone, and Michael McCormack came seeking endorsements.

Albert O'Neil, one of the most homophobic members of the current city council, also appeared, not to seek endorsement but apparently to let the members know that he is aware there is a campaign to defeat him in this election.

Iannella was the first council candidate to speak. An incumbent on the current council, he discussed his support of the Human Rights Ordinance which passed during the past council term and also emphasized his recent vote supporting full funding for the Department of Health and Hospitals.

The council recently cut the proposed budget for DHH on a close seven-to-six vote. Included within the budget are funds for people with AIDS, neighborhood health centers, the homeless, and funds to combat infant mortality. In Boston, infant mortality rates are significantly higher among Black people and other people of color than among whites.

Iannella introduced the measure which would have restored those cuts, but it failed on a 7-to-6 vote. Iannella is one of four candidates for at-large seats who are also incumbents. The others are Michael

McCormack, Joseph Tierney, and Albert O'Neil.

McCormack emphasized his support of the human rights ordinance and in response to questions from the audience said he does not favor a civilian review board for the police department. He also said he does not favor a moratorium on condominium conversions until there are new housing starts.

McCormack, like Iannella, generally responded positively to the BLGPA questionnaire, although they both equivocated on the issues of domestic partnership legislation.

Althea Garrison, one of the longshots in the race, was consistently supportive in her answers both to written questions and questions from the audience.

On the issue which seemed to be the cutting edge, domestic partnership legislation, Garrison favored such legislation, saying, "If two people are living together like man and wife, they should get those [health and insurance] benefits." Although BLGPA members later said they were impressed by her, some questioned her "electability."

Incumbent at-large councillor O'Neil's appearance surprised many because of his long-standing opposition on issues of concern to lesbians and gay men as well as to people of color. O'Neil recently ran an ad in the *South Boston Marshal* referring to gay people and others who oppose him as "sick's" [sic]. O'Neil denied he is anti-gay, brushing back such suggestions by saying, "It's a lie. I'm not what you think I am." He also said he has a "great relationship" with openly gay city councillor David Scondras.

O'Neil said he did not want the group's endorsement; as he left the hall he said, "At least I came."

Another at-large candidate was Ken Davis, currently the director of the Roxbury YMCA. Although Davis was overwhelmingly positive, his connection with the New Alliance Party figured heavily in the decision not to endorse him. One member accused the New Alliance of being disruptive of local grass-roots organizing, particularly in the mayoral race. Members of the Rainbow Coalition were also angered by New Alliance literature they say appeared in New York claiming responsibility for the mayoral candidacy of Mel King.

Willie Allen introduced herself by saying, "I'm Willie Allen, and I'm definitely not one of the boys." Allen's response to questions was uniformly supportive.

Introducing himself as the uncle of a lesbian and a gay man, Frederick Langone apologized for not having completed a questionnaire, saying he "got into the race late." Langone was a former ten-term councillor who gave up his seat to run in the last Boston mayoral race. He was supportive of AIDS funding but opposed domestic partnership legislation for people "not legally married." When it was pointed out that gay people cannot legally marry, he responded, "I didn't make the laws," and suggested that gay people have the law changed.

It is Langone and another candidate, Michael Kane, who are given the best chance of unseating O'Neil for one of the four at-large city council seats. Kane is known as a progressive grass-roots organizer who is making his first run for public office. He is the founder and director of the Boston Affordable Housing Coalition and is calling for a restoration of rent control and a ban on condominium conversions. He also initiated a campaign to divest public

pension funds from South African companies.

In the end, BLGPA voted on a slate of four at-large candidates, and they were endorsed. They were Allen, Iannella, Kane, and McCormack.

Jimmy Kelly, incumbent councillor from District 2, appeared, maintaining his support of les-

bians and gay men in spite of his generally lukewarm response to the written questionnaire. Kelly was questioned about his vote in favor of the DHH cut. He maintained that the community should be "outraged" with the DHH decision to cut AIDS funding as a result of the city council vote, but refused any direct responsibility

himself. Kelly also expressed agreement with the current foster care policy which virtually excludes lesbians and gay men and he opposes domestic partnership legislation as well as a civilian police review board. Kelly was also criticized for attempting to weaken the city's human rights ordinance

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DSS Foster Parent Hearing

Continued from page 1

she "declined to answer for moral reasons," adding, "I believe that this new policy in regard to sexual preference is morally faulty. I cannot in good conscience support this policy by cooperating with it."

Piccard said she was told by DSS that she was a "low priority" for further placements, as long as she declined to answer questions regarding her sexual preference. She was also told that placements would be made only if they could be "justified in terms of clinical judgment." "But," she said, "if it is true that 'clinical judgments of a child's individual needs can justify modification of the priority regulations,' then the regulations should say so."

After describing several reasons why she believes the question should not be asked (although she also said she could understand such a question being used to screen individuals who have a sex-

non-traditional setting will be made, however, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there is no traditional family setting available, or likely to be available, for the child in question."

In other testimony, a representative of Prospect House, a private Worcester agency which places children for DSS, said her agency had stopped placing children in single-parent homes because they believed the policy forbade such placements. Caseworker Elaine Bergstrom said the majority of that agency's available homes are single-parent homes.

Bergstrom was asked by *GCN* if there were enough foster homes available and replied, "No, god no," adding, "DSS is calling us because they don't have the homes. Some [of the kids] go to group care. There will always be more kids than homes. There are not enough [homes] out there under any circumstances."



Reverend Kathy Piccard

ual preference for children), she added, "If questions are going to be asked, the DSS should be asking about anti-gay intolerance and homophobic attitudes in foster parents, group care settings, kids and families, DSS workers, etc."

Piccard also played on a theme which many, particularly experts in the field, have already brought up. That is, many children, particularly victims of abuse, would be better off in a single-parent family rather than in a "traditional" family.

Following the six-hour hearing, Matava acknowledged this may be the case, but insisted that the new policy is only a "framework," and that it is flexible enough to allow special placements to be made. She said, in the case given, she would look first for a female relative, and that is consistent with the placement policy.

However, the policy promulgated by the department specifically states otherwise, saying in part, "No placement in a

In a later interview, DSS Commissioner Marie Matava told *GCN* that Prospect House had misinterpreted the policy. Is this a common misunderstanding among agencies, especially small ones? "I don't know," replied Matava. She said the major effort so far had been focused on educating DSS workers about the new policy and that private agencies will have to be focused on now.

Bergstrom told *GCN* she is resentful of the policy because of its pronouncements on single parents. As a single mother, she raised a daughter and now is a grandmother herself. She has had 15 foster children since 1979, ranging in age from 11 to 18. "How dare anybody say I'm not a fit parent," said Bergstrom. "It's an outrage."

When asked if she would comply with the new policy which requires caseworkers to ask the sexual preference of prospective parents, she said, "No. If somebody asked me, I'd say it was none

of their business. It's an insult."

Frank Wills, a Boston psychiatrist, told of his experiences as a foster child in the Massachusetts system (before DSS was established.) He said the worst family he had was one which was considered the best under the current guidelines. His voice shaking from the memory of that time, Wills told the audience that he was unable to read his last paragraph but would submit it as written testimony.

Wills said he was "strongly disturbed" by the policy and asked DSS officials how many workers would suggest a placement which needs an okay from the highest level of the department. "And how many times can the commissioner overrule her own list?" asked Wills.

Perhaps some of the most interesting testimony of the day came in the form of a study from the Massachusetts Legislative Subcommittee on Foster Care, chaired by Representative Barbara Hildt (D-Amesbury). Published in July 1985 and titled "In the Best Interest of the Children?" it is a survey of "homefinders, social workers, agency directors and other foster care workers in 38 of 41 DSS area offices, and 53 private agencies in the state." Although 91 interviews were conducted, it is an informal survey and a more systematic study is being undertaken by the committee.

The study reports three findings. First, that "there is no evidence to support priority placement of foster children in married, two-parent families over any other type of familial arrangement."

Thirty-nine percent of DSS offices said, according to the study, that "many situations call for a child being placed with a single parent rather than with two." The director of the Boston area office reportedly said 80 percent of their available homes were with single parents.

The second finding was that "significant numbers of children are on waiting lists for foster homes in Massachusetts." However, information was not given in the study about the length of the waiting period. Also, it appears from the study that it is relatively uncommon for offices to keep these statistics. But, as with Bergstrom's comments, many in the field agree there is a shortage of homes.

But perhaps more disturbing than the shortage of homes is that children apparently are placed in largely inappropriate placements as a result. "One Springfield-based agency," said the study, "reported that out of 10 children waiting to be placed, two were in psychiatric hospitals, one was in jail, and the rest were runaways or in respite care programs."

The third finding was that "Efforts to recruit adequate numbers of new foster homes may be hindered by the new foster care placement policy." A variety of responses were reported in the survey. "It was reported from a South Shore office that 'recruiting has become more difficult. There is more paperwork. It deters a lot of people from wanting to become foster parents.'"

Community Voices

GCN Job Openings

GCN is currently accepting applications for the following full-time positions. We welcome inquiries about these jobs.

Local Reporter (available early October 1985): Research, investigate and write news stories about Boston/New England, and, as necessary, national news stories. *Qualifications:* Strong writing skills and ability to write several news stories under weekly deadline pressures. Knowledge of local/national gay and lesbian community and issues helpful.

Promotions/Classified Advertising Manager (available January 1986): Use direct mail marketing, exchange ads, renewal campaigns and other strategies to increase subscription and newsstand sales of the paper. Process and lay out weekly classified ads. *Qualifications:* Strong writing, administrative, creative and organizational skills. Previous promotions/marketing experience helpful.

Design Director (available on or before January 1986): Establish overall design of the paper, and oversee the layout and proofreading functions on production night. Design (or assign to volunteer artists) front cover, centerspread artwork/layout, and book supplement graphics, as well as promotional brochures, leaflets, etc. *Qualifications:* Strong graphic design/art skills. Familiarity with type specifications, knowledge of printing techniques and previous related experience preferred.

All three positions require a commitment to gay/lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racist politics, and the collective decision-making process.

Salary/Benefits: \$150/week and fully paid health and life insurance, and three weeks' paid vacation.

To apply, please send resume and cover letter immediately to: GCN Search Committee, *Gay Community News*, 167 Tremont Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111. Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

unfit to serve

(GCN received a copy of this letter to the members of the Massachusetts Governor's Executive Council.—Ed.)

Dear Counselors:

We are writing to express our opposition to the appointment of Robert Banks by Governor Michael Dukakis to the Superior Court Department of the Massachusetts Trial Court.

Mr. Banks was selected to be the Special Prosecutor in the 1983 Marcia McWhinney, Debra Midgley and Magui Yero murder trial in Middlesex County. In the course of that trial, Mr. Banks exploited the defendants' lesbianism in an attempt to discredit them. In his closing argument to the jury he said, "There is a philosophy among gay people that is different from those that are straight, and you might want to consider what that is...." (Transcript of Special Prosecutor Banks' closing argument, page 14)

It would not have been appropriate for Mr. Banks to utilize ethnic slurs or racial prejudice in his closing argument. It was equally inappropriate for him to perpetuate and capitalize on false and damaging stereotypes of the gay and lesbian community to obtain a conviction. Recently the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts commented on this issue, stating, "We agree that it would be improper for the prosecutor to have suggested that the fact that the defendant was homosexual made him more likely to commit murder...." (*Commonwealth v. Healey*, 471 NE 2nd 359, 393 Mass. 367, 388 [1984]).

In addition, Mr. Banks' suggestion that lesbians who are raped would consider the violation as "(s)omething greater in their minds...than it might be in others," and that their outrage would impel them to murder demonstrates a callousness to the trauma of rape as experienced by all women.

We think these statements are indicative of Mr. Banks' intolerance of the vast numbers of gay and lesbian people who are citizens of the Commonwealth, and who may appear before him on the bench. Furthermore, these statements reflect a lack of objectivity and fair-mindedness which are essential in the judiciary.

It is for these reasons that we oppose Mr. Banks' appointment to the bench.

Sincerely,

Richard Burns, co-chair, and Denise McWilliams, member of the board, for the Board of Directors, Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Bar Association
Boston, MA

feeling the need for explanations

Dear GCN,

I'm in a very confused state at this time. I've had my first gay experience just awhile back and now I'm confused about who or what kind of person I am.

I must admit that I enjoyed the experience very much and that I would like to have a relationship. But I'm afraid.

Now in this gay experience I played the masculine (man) roll. Like I said it was more fulfilling than any other sex I've ever had; not only physically but mentally too.

Now my problem is this. How should I pursue in gaining a strong and healthy relationship? How can I explain to my parents my true feelings?

The two above questions are strongest in my mind at the time! But I do have many more. I would appreciate it if you could run my ad for me (below) and put me on your mailing list.

[Looking for sincere gay for possible relationship.]

Shawn D. BIGGS
125059, Box 97,
McAlester OK 74502.

creating our own prisons

Dear GCN:

For me, the true liberation of Stonewall has gone far beyond legal and political gains, to the very core of my personal and emotional being — creation of a positive identity and immersion in a culture and community where I am daily supported and renewed. It is therefore most distressing to me that from within the community come voices that seek to create our own "protective" prisons, defining the limits of "proper" conduct and thereby eliminating access to opportunities for continuing explorations of ourselves and our sexuality.

The "lesbian sex magazines" provide us with a unique opportunity to expand our awareness and/or practices of possibilities for ourselves. Although I may never be motivated to engage in most of the activities they present, I sometimes enjoy perusing them, thus visiting new worlds. When I hear of "our" bookstores refusing to carry them, I experience a sense of rage and deprivation for the women thus "protected," and am grateful that my local movement bookstores afford me the opportunity to make my own choices. I am deeply mindful that some of the same "feminists" who are the driving force of the "anti-porn" campaign are the very women who expounded on the "sickness" of my lesbianism during our early Consciousness Raising days.

In a recent letter to GCN, Sally Giacozani (7/6) warns that "the First Amendment/free speech ground is always invoked as the ultimate weapon with which to justify unpopular actions." Is this *bad*? As members of a largely despised *sexual* minority, let us always act in accordance with the adage that warns that "if they come for you today, and I do nothing, they will come for me tomorrow." And let us fully realize that the malignant repression and conformity of the 1950s was accomplished primarily through innuendo and intimidation, not through legislation.

Ultimately, my body and my mind are my only sure possessions, mine no matter what poverty or imprisonment befall me. To deprive me of enjoying their full potentials would be the ultimate tragedy. The present danger makes perfectly clear that the protection of the First Amendment is *personal*, not theoretical.

Mickey Zacuto
New York, NY

Supporting AAC

In recognition of the work of the AIDS Action Committee and their efforts to keep the community informed of important events regarding AIDS, GCN is introducing a campaign to offset their advertising costs. Any donation made to GCN and directed towards the AIDS Action Committee will be matched by the paper and will be used exclusively for display advertisements. All contributions will be acknowledged by the Committee.

Please send donations to:

GCN/AAC
167 Tremont Street #5
Boston, MA 02111

Thank you from both GCN and the AIDS Action Committee.

parades are fine but write letters

Dear GCN:

In reading today's newspapers, the Boston *Globe* and the Worcester *Telegram* for 11 June 1985, I find distressing news on all fronts for "Gay Rights" in spite of the encouragement received at the New England Lutheran Convention (LCA) during their recent meeting in Hartford, Conn. And it calls to mind that we as gays are far too complacent with the gains of the past 15 years, and unless we take note and become active in the political process, we stand to lose those gains. Gay Pride parades are fine, but the power of a letter to Congressmen or Congresswomen holds more hope for our gaining our rights.

The specific articles to which I refer are from the Associated Press. The first in the *Globe* announced the defeat of the gay rights bill in the Maine House. This is the state that is infamous for its killing of Charlie Howard a year ago, and its subsequent light treatment of the case, that indeed gays' right to life is evidently less serious than others. But this death is what led to my eventually standing up at the New England Lutheran Convention May 31 and saying, "My name is Randy Rice, I'm a member of Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Shrewsbury, Mass., I am a Lutheran and I am gay." As a non-voting visitor, I was allowed 5 minutes to make my appeal in favor of a resolution in support of pending legislation within the New England territory, and specifically in support of House Bill 3123 and Senate Bill 748, which is pending in Massachusetts.

I had contacted the Mass. Gay Political Caucus for information of other legislation, and they were not aware of any besides Massachusetts. I'm not so naïve that I would think a group of Lutherans passing a resolution in favor of Gay Rights Bills would have turned the state of Maine around. But there is an irony in this whole matter, the House in Maine voted the bill in defeat on a 2-to-1 margin. The Lutherans of New England voted in favor of such legislation on a 2-to-1 margin. It makes me proud to be a Lutheran in the times of conservatism that at least my church is maintaining a sane stand in spite of the hesitancy of legislators to make such a stand.

The second article reports the refusal of Presbyterians to end their ban on hiring gays within the church. This is a valid and proper decision by a church body which they may do. I wonder though if the Presbyterians would support a Gay Rights Bill for the "secular" world. Morally, there is no argument against civil rights for gays, and though many churches are homophobic and fear that such support would lead to their having to hire gays or have a "gay quota," they should realize that they are by their nature not obligated by Gay Rights Bills to hire gays any more than they are obligated to hire someone of any other faith but their own. But the churches can no longer ignore their obligation to support and give credence by their collective voice to just legislation such as Gay Rights.

Taking to the streets in parades is fine, but before we take off for the fun of a Gay Pride parade, we should be sitting down and writing a letter to our local legislators in support of the pending legislation. You would be surprised by how little mail is received by our elected officials on any issue and with this issue most letters will be written hoping to defeat the bills. If 30 letters were written to any elected official, this would be a "major issue" for them, and they would take note. We as concerned Lutherans plan to write a letter to each and every legislator in Massachusetts. The Secretary of the Synod has written to each Secretary of State in New England announcing our support of just legislation and the leadership of the House and Senate in Massachusetts. Before you take to the streets this year or the beaches of P-town, sit down and write a letter in support of House Bill 3123 and Senate Bill 748. It only costs 22¢.

Randall Rice
Worcester, MA

Defense Committee Update

"Foster Equality" buttons are now available. Send one dollar to the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, P.O. Box 225, Somerville, MA 02144.... The first GLDC newsletter is available. To add your name to the mailing list, write to the above address — Attention: Melanie.... Next Coordinating Committee meeting — to discuss strategies for October actions — will be Wednesday, September 11 at 7 p.m. Call Suzi at 628-4165 for location.

GCN welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPPACED, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: Community Voices, GCN, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.

GayCommunityNews

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Postmaster: Send address changes to: Gay Community News, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl. Boston, MA 02111.

Community Voices

the real story in north carolina

Dear GCN:

Your Gay Pride issue (7/13/85) included one in a long series of consistently distorted GCN articles about North Carolina. Marie Godwin's reflections on her move to Winston-Salem are fine as an essay about her own life, but as a representation of Gay Pride here it was inadequate.

Godwin stated "there are no openly gay bars in Winston-Salem." This is not true; there are two. There are three in nearby Greensboro. There are also numerous gay organizations in both Winston-Salem and Greensboro, many of them of particular interest to lesbians. LUNA, a social and recreational group for lesbians, can be contacted by writing P.O. Box 15321, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27113.

Godwin was correct in saying that there are no gay pride parades in North Carolina. There were, however, several important celebrations: two in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area, and a week of activities in Charlotte, but these received no coverage in GCN.

You seem determined to print only those news items that fit your preconceived version of "The South." I do not fault any of your correspondents for this; I blame it on a typical editorial "Yankee bias."

Another example: your short summaries of the defeat of two anti-gay bills in the state legislature — ("north carolina shelves ban on gay student clubs" 7/6/85, and "bill against gay teachers withdrawn" 7/20/85) — miss a very important point: the involvement of local gay activists in the defeat of those bills.

"When the NCHRF first started writing letters to legislators, some wrote back to say, 'We have no gay constituents,'" the executive director of the North Carolina Human Rights Fund commented. "This time, when we informed legislators that both of these bills had serious constitutional problems, we heard from powerful Representatives — both Democrat and Republican — thanking us for our information and pledging to help defeat the bills."

In other issues, you covered activities in the N.C. legislature including the threat to abortion funding and the revision of the obscenity laws ("pornography" battle comes to n.c.," 5/11/85; "attack on abortion funds in north carolina," 5/25/85; "let them be sterilized," 6/15/85). By not following up on these stories, you continue to promote the view that North Carolina is a far worse place than it actually is.

The state's abortion fund, for example, was not abolished. It was cut by a third, and that third was reapportioned to help pay for prenatal care for poor women. Republican Governor Jim Martin has been strongly criticized by conservatives

for not fighting harder to abolish abortion funding. N.C. remains one of a handful of states with abortion funding.

As you noted in your most recent issue (8/3/85), a bill to strengthen the state's anti-pornography laws was introduced separately from the general criminal code revision, and passed. It is scheduled to go into effect October 1. What your article did not note, however, was the probable court battle this legislation faces. To quote the Associated Press: "Senators on both sides of the political fence say the new law could be declared unconstitutional."

Yet again, in your January 19, 1985 issue, under the headline "Anti-Gay Attacks Continue: Carolina Police Raids, Fire Nip Tarheels," Michele Nethercott described "what appears to be the next wave in a campaign against gay people in this state, following on the homophobic heels of Jesse Helms' recent Senate race..."

In fact, Nethercott incorrectly connected unrelated events. The attempt to shut down several "adult" bookstores in Charlotte resulted in no arrests of customers, though raids of this sort are often used in other cities across the nation as an excuse to bust gay men. I suspect that discussions between the Charlotte gay community and Mayor Harvey Gantt may have prevented such abuse.

The Christmas Eve disco fire Nethercott wrote about was not the result of homophobic bigots. The fire was started by the owners of a rival gay bar who wanted to increase their business. The three men involved in this operation were arrested, tried, and convicted.

Among your reports of last year's Hunt-Helms election, the best was Mab Segrest's "Gay Baiting: Anatomy of an Election" (2/9/85). But, even there, the quality of the story was reduced by allegations which were flatly untrue. Many of them involved the *Front Page*, a gay newspaper in North Carolina, and its editor (myself).

Segrest stated that in the spring of 1984 the *Front Page* "set about organizing gay Republicans." This was not the case; TFP did try to stress that minority rights are not, should not, be partisan issues. Yes, TFP did run many stories on gay Republicans prior to the election, most of them picked up from other gay publications. TFP was not the only paper to consider them news.

In doing so, TFP was trying to represent the whole of its readership, which is much broader demographically and less well-defined than that of GCN.

"I don't think that there is any such thing as a gay vote," Segrest quoted me as saying to the *Raleigh News and Observer*. This was not a particularly original or controversial remark. Similar statements were made by Vic Basile of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and Tom Chorlton of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs.

Also, Segrest's article did not quote me in full. I went on to say: "It's not surprising, in a state as

conservative as North Carolina, that the gay community — which is a very random 10 percent of the population — should also be conservative."

The point in that remark was simply that the gay community, much of which is still in the closet, could not be assumed to be liberal or Democratic. It is not indication of the editorial policies of the *Front Page*.

The apparent double-bind Segrest wrote about — that I would deny the existence of a gay vote on the one hand, and turn around and urge TFP readers to vote Democratic as if their lives depended on it — does not seem terribly confusing or contradictory to me. Whether or not there actually is a gay vote, it doesn't hurt to try to persuade a gay readership.

In the gay-bashing incidents cited by Segrest, it's important to know that the perpetrators were caught and given stiff sentences. Of course, true justice would be the elimination of the pervasive homophobia that gives rise to such events, but nevertheless the police, the courts, and the media all did the right thing.

"Helms Campaign Sets Tone — Carolinians Under Homophobic Attack" was the headline of an article by Sue Hyde in GCN of November 10, 1984. The article was factual enough, although it gave undue emphasis to a single incident in a campaign filled with such garbage. However, the comments made by Mab Segrest in that article are pertinent.

"It's difficult to sort through...and figure out what is just paranoia," Segrest remarked and she's right. It's a newspaper's job to try and separate what seems to be from what actually is. This is particularly important in trying to sort out homophobia and anti-gay actions in our culture.

"We need as much support as possible here," Segrest went on to say in that same article, "so that if stuff really starts coming down, we can get in contact with people and mobilize."

Again, I absolutely agree. But because this is important, it is vital not to make false — or simply metaphoric — connections. It's like the story of the child who cried "Wolf." When we need help down here, we want people to respond. Therefore, it would be better to try and avoid false alarms — and false impressions.

Life in North Carolina for lesbians and gay men is not easy. But, for most, it is not a horror story either. I do not suggest that gay men and lesbians in this state should settle for what they have, and be content. I urge that the fight continue; I wouldn't publish the *Front Page* if I didn't believe that.

I am saying that North Carolina can be a good place to be gay; the gay people here make it so. Most lesbians and gay men in this state, I would venture to say, feel that North Carolina is their home. And we will not be put out of it without a struggle. And we are struggling — separately, in small groups, and sometimes, together.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Baxter, editor
The Front Page
P.O. Box 25642
Raleigh, NC 27611

expertise for sale?

Dear GCN:

There's an interesting sidelight to the City of Boston to be found in a struggle for lesbian/gay liberation currently being waged in the San Francisco Superior Court.

The judicial battle pits Larry Brinklin, a gay man employed as a word processor, against his employer, Southern Pacific Railway Company. Brinklin is suing SP because of its denial to Brinklin of paid bereavement leave when Brinklin's lover of 11 years suddenly died. SP acknowledges that such bereavement leave would have been unquestionably granted had Brinklin's lover been his heterosexual spouse, even if such union were only 11 *days* long.

The Boston angle concerns SP's star defense witness, one Frederick Gamst, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at U.Mass.-Boston.

The exegesis of Gamst's testimony is that a policy of granting bereavement leave only to legally married (and therefore heterosexual) spouses accords no discrimination because gay persons cannot establish "kinship" with our partners. Further, Gamst used his sterling academic credentials and title of "Dr." to testify that there is no bar to gay persons getting married, provided their marriage choice is of the opposite sex. With a straight face, Gamst said such bereavement-leave policies create no dual standard from a social scientist perspective.

So much for the objectivity of science. Perhaps Dr. Neanderthal, er, Gamst, is of the ilk who back home in Boston can be considered the liberal academician, but who is willing to fly first-class across the country to prostitute his credentials to the highest bidder.

Not surprisingly, Gamst feigned confusion when plaintiff attorney Matt Coles cross-examined him by asking whether a social scientist would find discrimination in a society which accorded bereavement leave only to couples whose spouse is of the same race. By testifying that laws against miscegenation were inconceivable, Gamst belied his own anthropological background. Laws barring interracial marriage were on the books and enforced in the U.S. as recently as 18 years ago.

By refusing to recognizing the parallels between that form of race discrimination and the at-issue sexual orientation discrimination, Gamst indicated his testimony is grounded in little more than his drive for expert-witness fees.

The trial judge has taken the case under submission, and is expected to render her decision shortly.
Sincerely,
Carl Goodman
San Francisco, CA

AIDS Resource List

AIDS Action Committee — 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 536-7733.

Education and support group for people with AIDS, their families, lovers, friends, and health care providers. Provides speakers, conducts forums, rap groups, hospice-trained volunteers, hotline information and referrals. Associated with Fenway Community Health Center.

AIDS Action Line — 536-7733 or Massachusetts toll-free AIDS hotline, 1-800-235-2331.

AIDS Action Committee service, information, referrals and befriending about AIDS.

AIDS Hotline — Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program, City of Boston, 424-5916.

Staff of public health nurses answer questions about AIDS, make referrals. Collects city-wide data from hospitals on AIDS cases, forwards data to Centers for Disease Control. Officially determines number of cases probable and under investigation.

Fenway Community Health Center — 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 267-7573.

A gay-sensitive health care facility. Hotline information, medical work-ups, diagnosis, referrals, counseling. Participates in research efforts.

Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services — 600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111, 542-5188.

Provides individual and group therapy. Groups available for friends and lovers of people with AIDS. (Services provided

without regard for individual's ability pay.) Counseling and HTLV-III blood screening services for individuals concerned with exposure to the virus associated with AIDS. Co-sponsored with Department of Public Health. (522-4090)

Gay and Lesbian Hotline — 426-9371, Monday-Friday, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Provides information on AIDS, makes referrals. Associated with Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services.

Haitian Committee on AIDS in Massachusetts — 177 Harvard Street, Dorchester, MA 02124, 436-2848.

Provides information, referrals, support and emergency assistance to Haitians with AIDS and their families.

Mayor's Committee on AIDS — 709A Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201, 725-3307.

Coordinates efforts of federal, state, and city health agencies, produces educational material, collects data on cases, reviews policy. Umbrella organization. Media outlet. Conducts forums and provides speakers, distributes AIDS brochures, referrals.

National Gay Task Force Hotline — 1-800-221-7044.

Toll-free national hotline run by NGTF to provide information and referrals.

Springfield Downtown Ministry/Council of Churches — 293 Bridge Street, #205, Springfield, MA 01103-1402, 737-4125. Counseling and referrals.

Gay Community News is now in its thirteenth year of publication. Have you subscribed yet? You save \$21.00 off the newsstand price when you purchase a one-year subscription. (So do it today and don't miss another issue!)

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Texas

Continued from page 1

"This 'customary discrimination' could equally justify no civil rights for Blacks and women."

Lawyers examining the decision point out that the bulk of both majority and dissenting opinions do not fully address the constitutional issue of the right to privacy. Rather, they focus on a tangential legal issue — whether or not Texas district attorneys had the right to appeal a lower court's finding that the sodomy laws were unconstitutional, after Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox decided not to appeal the decision.

The case dates back to 1979 when Dallas school teacher Donald Baker filed a class action suit against Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade, challenging Texas Penal Code provision 21.06. In August 1982, a judge in Dallas Federal Court of Texas ruled the provision unconstitutional, and an appeal by several district attorneys was filed two months later. After wrangling over the appropriateness of this appeal, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in June 1985 and issued its opinion on August 26, 1985. The appeal by the district attorneys was financially supported in part by a right-wing organization called Dallas Doctors Against AIDS.

— filed from Boston

Military

Continued from page 1

out gay men, Polk told *GCN*, "I'm not naive enough to think it's not in the back of the minds of some of these hardcore guys." Gilbert, who called the military's homophobia "neanderthal," said, "In the Navy, we have seen clients discharged because of what they said, to doctors — there was nothing in their medical records." She said she is also concerned that "patients [in the military] will stop going to doctors — instead, you will get sick."

In addition, the DoD's order requiring receipt of names of military blood donors who test HTLV-III positive has raised similar fears about confidentiality. When the DoD first drew up the policy earlier this year, the Red Cross and other civilian blood banks vowed they would not release names. However, as Gene Jeffers of the American Red Cross told *GCN*, "They [the DoD] have the right to require anything they want."

Civilian blood banks met with DoD officials in August to discuss implementation of the policy, which, as a result, now stipulates that military donors must sign a consent form before giving blood. If the donor does not sign the form indicating he or she understands positive HTLV-III test results will be turned over to the military, the

donor will not be permitted to give blood. DoD also ordered civilian blood banks to turn over names of those military personnel who test positive for syphilis and hepatitis.

"DoD said they were going to do it — we didn't have a choice," said Brian McDonough, executive director of the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank in San Francisco. He added, "We at least will have informed consent."

McDonough, whose blood bank collects ten percent of its supply from military installations, expects to see a "significant decrease" in blood collections. Jeffers told *GCN* it is "impossible to tell" at present how severely the blood supply will be affected.

The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board is expected to meet again in the near future to make a recommendation about full-scale testing of all military personnel. A public hearing was held in D.C. before the board on August 9, to discuss, in part, the impact of such testing on the military. Jeff Levi, director of government and political affairs for the National Gay Task Force, testified against the testing, along with Mathilde Krim of the AIDS Medical Foundation. The DoD ordered the current policy of testing new recruits despite no recommendation from that board.

BLGPA

Continued from page 3

when it was being considered by the council. "You got what you wanted and I got what I wanted," he replied. He also told the group that he knew "a number of gays who are very decent."

Kelly was not endorsed, nor was his rival, William Linehan. Although Linehan was generally considered by members to be a better political choice, it was felt that his positions were not supportive enough to endorse him.

Although three District 8 council candidates showed, David Scodras, Les Payne, and Glen Fiscus, there was no debate and Scodras was endorsed unanimously.

District 9 incumbent Brian McLaughlin replied to questions supportively and is considered one of the progressive voices on the council. He also received unanimous support from those present.

Among the School Committee candidates appeared several who were strongly supportive of lesbians and gay men and a progressive agenda.

At-large candidate Jean McGuire received strong support, particularly for her outspoken and active stand against the state's foster care policy which virtually prohibits lesbians and gay men from foster parenting.

While advocating coalition building, she maintained that the leadership on issues of gay rights must come from lesbians and gay men. While McGuire had several suggestions for dealing with homophobia in the school system, she suggested a group of lesbians and gay men draw up a program and meet with new Superintendent of Schools Laval Wilson in the near future.

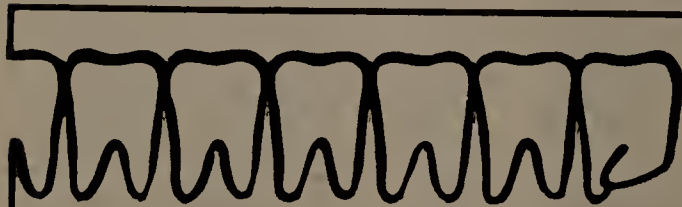
Abigail Browne, like McGuire one of the incumbent progressives, also advocated meeting with Wilson as soon as possible. Also like McGuire, her answers to questions were considered uniformly supportive.

Browne led a recent initiative to censure School Committee member Joseph Casper for remarks which were widely interpreted as racist. Casper also has made jokes in public about AIDS.

Casper's opponent in the District 2 School Committee race is David S. King, who said he was prompted to run when it appeared that Casper would run unopposed. "It is wrong for [Casper's comments] to go unprotected," he said. On the issue of domestic partnership, King said, "I know the system is unfair to gay men and lesbians." When asked how he would combat racism within the Boston public schools, King said he led a fight when he was on the Hartford, Connecticut School Committee to hire a Black woman as superintendent. He said one way to end racism within the schools is to work to enfranchise minority groups within the leadership.

Juanita Wade also spoke to BLGPA and provided supportive answers to questions posed. Like the other candidates who were endorsed for school committee, she favored encouraging Superintendent Wilson to implement workshops for teachers and to add literature on lesbians and gay men.

All four school committee candidates appearing before the alliance were endorsed, as was John O'Bryant.



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Getting the Facts Straight: Tips from a Famous Homosexual Journalist

By Susie Day

Are you homosexual? Do you enjoy writing? Then you may have a career as a famous homosexual journalist!

Many famous homosexual journalists started out with only a friendly acquaintance with literacy, a trust fund, and a terrible urge to *achieve*. Just as they did, you can turn that scrawny, illicit little identity that society has begrudged you into a selfhood shimmering with validity and purpose! So pick up a pen, straighten out that wrist, and start making your proclivities work for you. Here's how:

First, it is important to know all the parts of speech and to use them one after the other until your article is over. Your job as a famous homosexual journalist is to provide people with a reason to read beyond the Events Calendar. This means that one must practice high standards of excellence in one's writing. Just, for instance, because I am a homosexual writing for this homosexual publication does not mean that I can afford to write rotently. The pen is, after all, mightier than the word.

Second, be objective. Lesbian/gay newspapers frequently make the mistake of portraying known homosexuals sympathetically, merely because they are discriminated against by society. But does this mean that homosexuals are always nice? Some of the meanest people I

know are homosexuals, yet this fact never seems to appear in lesbian/gay newspapers. Conversely, in an effort to give credence to the oppressed, lesbian/gay newspapers often depict bigots, homophobes, and male supremacists as lacking an essential humanity. Now, how do you think that makes them feel? And we wonder why more people don't read homosexual newspapers!

After you have firmed up your commitment to objectivity, it is time to select your topic. This is really a snap if you follow the guidelines set down by the mass media: simply concentrate your objectivity on people who are *not* discriminated against by society. In its Sunday magazine, for example, the New York Times has instituted a regular column by and about men, objectively titled: "About Men." Word has it the series is so successful that Times publishers are now talking of adding a column by and about Harvard graduates and — a crucial step forward in achieving Total Objectivity — a special column for white people.

Critics of this journalistic approach say that it tends to produce work which is shallow, two-dimensional — almost cartoon-like in its moral disingenuousness. Well, NUTS TO THEM!!! Here is an excerpt from an interview conducted by an aspiring famous

homosexual journalist, who has begun a series of reports on heterosexuals. Of course, some of the facts had to be obscured in the interest of getting all the points of view. But, as you can see, it has really paid off!

The New Neighbor

He was standing in the middle of a petunia bed, holding a carbine rifle, the afternoon sun glinting off his shiny, round head. So this was the resident of 223 W. Elm Street! Ever since that moving van with the words "Warner Bros." emblazoned on the sides had pulled up in front of the house next door, I had wondered just who my new neighbor might be.

What an animated little character he was! In that cunning miniature hunter's outfit, every inch of his three-foot body silently quivered with predatory intensity. His glassy, hamster-like eyes and potato nose made me feel as if I'd known him all my life. A looney sort of tune drifted into my head... suddenly I knew what I would call him. Casually, I leaned over the fence, stuck a toothpick in my mouth, and found myself asking: "Ehhhhh — what's up, Jock?"

"Sh-sh-sh-sh," he whispered. "Be vewy, vewy quiet. I'm hunting homos."

"Homos?" I queried aloud.

"Ehhhhh — what do these homos look like, Jock?"

"Well," he replied in a hoarse,

childlike drawl, "they have widdle twitchy noses and widdle powder-puff tails, and — Oh, Hcwoe," he chuckled, "you must be my new neighbor." He unfolded two tiny lawn chairs, and we sat down.

"As you can see," he explained rather sheepishly, "I'm a Wight Wing Wadical. Heh, heh, heh."

I smiled compassionately. I didn't want to deal in cardboard stereotypes; here was just another sentient being — a sentient being with a gun — who deserved all the fair and accurate coverage I could give him.

"Ehhhhh, tell me Jock," I inquired neutrally, "when did you begin to think you might be a Right Winger?"

"Ever since I was vewy small, I've had — those feewings," he admitted frankly.

"And when was your first Right Wing experience?"

"When I was about twelve. This other kid and me, we mailed our dirty underwear to Eleanor Roosevelt."

"And your parents never found out, Jock?"

"They would have killed me. So, fwom a vewy early age, I've known opwession."

"Opwession, Jock?" I found his accent charming. "Who would want to hassle *you*?"

"Oh, Bwacks," he sighed.

"Wefists. Fwuits. Those pesky wascals all want to have sex with us

and destwoy Civiwization. They're jeawous of our supewiowity; heh, heh." He spent the next few seconds contemplatively peering down the little hole in his gun where the bullets come out.

"Uh, say, Jock — are there any more at home like you?"

"Well, I have a bwother, but he's in the army."

"Yeah? What's he doing there, Jock?"

"Sh-sh-sh-sh. Be vewy, vewy quiet. He's hunting Sandinistas."

I must have looked momentarily dismayed, for he suddenly narrowed his b-b eyes at me and started unfastening the rifle's safety catch. "Hey," he growled, "you're not a Sandinista, are you?"

"Me, Jock? Nawwww. I'm a wabbit."

Nonetheless, the new neighbor picked up his gun and aimed it right at my —

(Cont. on Page 33)

After you have finished writing your story, don't forget to send it to the homosexual newspaper of your choice. I chose this one, since it pays enough for me to finish having my teeth capped. See, I had a little scuffle a while back with a Right Wing Radical. And that is what being a famous homosexual journalist is all about.

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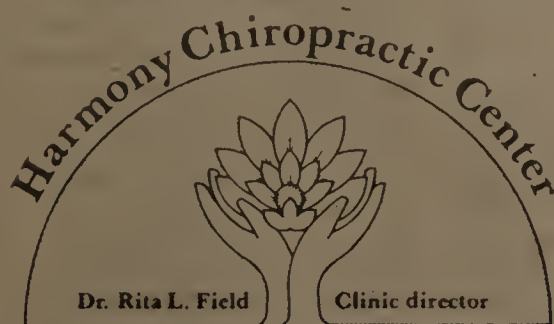
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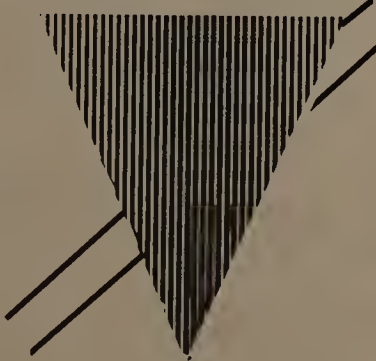


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(Reprinted from Real Paper, "Best of Boston," Fall, 1980)

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PORNLAND

It's Hot... It's Fun... It's Fabulous Porn

By Bill Kreidler

Some people think it started in 1973 with *Playgirl*, the magazine that made the newsstand safe for male nudity. Others think it started a little later with *After Dark*, the nationally distributed arts magazine with a sophisticated and distinctly gay sensibility. Either way, everyone agrees that when *Blueboy* appeared in 1976, it was the first magazine to combine these two attributes and, not coincidentally, launch a revolution of sorts in gay porn — the softcore slick.

Blueboy proved (though not without some difficulty) that gay men would buy a magazine that was glossy, sleek, sophisticated, and proudly gay. The idea was so attractive that soon there were a host of imitators, most of them still in existence today, filling whole racks in bookstores and newsstands: *Mandate*, *Honcho*, *Numbers*, *First Hand*, *Torso*, *Inches*, *Stallion*, *Manscape*, and more.

Each of these magazines appeals to a slightly different audience, but they all have two things in common. First, they are softcore pornography, which means that they contain neither graphics nor photographs of any explicit sexual act. No fellatio, no anal sex, not even mutual masturbation.

Such restrictions do not apply to prose, however. Which brings us to the second thing the softcore magazines have in common, something they have virtually created: Pornland.

That is what people buy when they slap down \$3.95 for any of the softcore magazines. They are buying a ticket to Pornland.

Pornland is the place where gay men's sexual fantasies live. (There is, of course, a non-gay Pornland as well. It's a related but essentially separate place.) Gay Pornland has existed for centuries in one form or another, but never has it been so clearly spelled out or so widely available as it is now. By virtue of their availability and their enormous combined readership, the mainstream softporn magazines are in the position of defining Pornland. Specifically, this definition takes place in the short fiction the magazines publish.

Creating this fiction isn't easy. Like any specialized form of writing (romance novels are another example), pornwriting requires a high degree of technical skill. It is here that the topography, the population, the activity, and the language of Pornland is explicitly delineated. The writer must entice the reader into Pornland, then stimulate him (or her — there are lesbian visitors to Pornland) to sexual release. This difficult task is made more difficult by the fact that the writer doesn't really have much with which to work. Porn stories don't have plot so much as they have incident, so the only drama is in the sexual tension of the situation. This must be heightened to a point that engages the reader without exposing the fantasy. The pornwriter walks a thin, erotic line between the ludicrous and the banal. To do this, the writers lean heavily on the conventions, images, and language of Pornland.

This then is Pornland, as defined by the mainstream, softcore slicks (I hasten to hedge: there are exceptions to some of the statements that follow. What is interesting is how few exceptions there are, and how many of those are in fact the type of exception that proves the rule.):

Pornland is usually located somewhere in the United States, although there is a subgenre of travel porn. Superficially, the setting is either The Big City (if named, the city is usually New York, San Francisco, or Los Angeles), Anytown, or The Country. But these designations only provide a context. Pornland is really located in bars, warehouses, gyms, lockerrooms, truckstops, rest areas, garages, docks, deserted countryside, beaches, camp sites, and apartments. Yet generally, these settings receive little in the way of description. The settings of Pornland establish a mood, but they are far less important than the activities of the people in them.

The people of Pornland are men. (When, on occasion, a woman appears in Pornland, she is usually either a Nagging Mother or a Duped Wife who doesn't know that her husband is gay. For the most part, women are irrelevant in Pornland.) Age is often unspecified, but the men of Pornland are almost always young, in the sense that they range from eighteenish to thirty-sevenish. There are some older men in Pornland, however, and they tend to have aged very well. They are still granted Pornland's highest ac-

colade — they are Hot. Ethnically, 97 percent of the men in Pornland are white, though not necessarily Anglo-Saxon. Sometimes they are Italian, in which case they are named Vinnie or Tony. Sometimes they are Swedish. Then they are named Lars or Sven. Usually no ethnicity is specified, except for the three percent who are not white. They are Black unless they happen to be Hispanic. They are never Asian unless the story is of the travel porn variety.

Except for motorcycle Masters who roam the countryside and seduce or rape virgin garage mechanics, the men of Pornland all work, but only certain types of work merit any kind of mention beyond "I got home from work." In Pornland everyone is either on vacation, just off work, or on his lunch hour. Occupations are only mentioned when they provide a key to character. In Pornland, holding a manual labor job, such as a construction worker, plumber or mechanic, implies Hot, the personality characteristic most worth having. Everyone else falls in the category of Regular Guy. Regular Guys are usually Hot, too, but not like construction workers.

Since Hot is the most important personality characteristic, and since nearly everyone in Pornland is Hot, appearance tells the people of Pornland much of what they need to know about each other. Nowhere is the male body more thoroughly and lovingly detailed than in Pornland. This is not to say that everyone is necessarily handsome. Indeed, faces don't get much of a mention. Hair color and type are noted, and sometimes "warm brown eyes" or "smiling, sensuous mouth" are added, but it is bodies that count.

From the neck down, the body is described in a way that almost defies description. The detailing of body parts is raised to, if not a fine art, then certainly a high craft in Pornland. With the exception of such bodybuilding terms as "pecs" and "lats," correct anatomical terms are almost never used. (These would tend to jolt the reader of Pornland and back into real-life. He's there for sex, not an anatomy lesson.) Instead, pornwriters have developed a highly descriptive language designed to trigger specific images in the reader's mind and thus keep him happily involved in the doings of Pornland. The detail becomes progressively more vivid as one descends the body. Chests are described as "tremendous," "strong and manly," or "powerfully muscled." A man may have "pecs like glossy pillows" and nipples (a separate category from chests, usually referred to as "tits") that "protrude the size of pencil erasers."

Stomachs in Pornland are usually "tight" and/or "taut." Sometimes they are "hairy guts." They may be endowed with a "hairy pathway" which leads to a "shock of pubic hair" or a "tangle of dark, curly hair." (Be it "bristly," "wiry," a "thin coating" or a "dense covering," body hair is considered another body part and has not only a host of adjectives describing, but is also closely associated with particular types of men, i.e.: sexually aggressive and powerful men.)

The penis is never called a penis. Rather it is a "prick," "cock," or "dick." Such terms are rarely sufficient, however, and are usually preceded by such adjectives as "huge," "thick," "juicy," "bulging," "meaty," "hefty," "succulent," and "ripe and ready." A penis may also be a "cockroot," "shaft," "fuckrod," "fuck muscle," "fucktool," "quarter-pounder," "tube steak," "sex hose," or "love log." Whatever noun is used, it is almost invariably modified by some variation of "large." Pornland has also pioneered an adjectival form of "man," as in "man cock," "man tool," "manmeat," and so forth. This is not done from any doubt as to the gender of the person possessing the penis (or other body part — there are also "man tits," "man pits," and "manholes"). Rather, it is something of an incantation, emphasizing the masculine sexuality of the character and the situation.

In Pornland, everyone has a penis that is, at the very least, "huge." While specific measurements are not indicated unless the organ is nine inches or more (maximum is about 12 inches), no one has a penis that is even average, let alone small. Never, ever. Interestingly, the photographs in softporn magazines are sometimes of men with average-sized or even small endowments. It should be noted, however, that only two of these averaged-sized men — Mickey Squires and Clay Russell — have become full-fledged porno

stars.

In the past few years an increasing number of uncircumcised men have taken up residence in Pornland. They now number close to half the populace and are easily spotted by the "long wad of loose foreskin," the "delicate fold of flesh," or the "thick, ripe man-skin" covering the "succulent red cockhead."

Testicles, also known as "bulging nuts" and "fat balls," are frequently "spunk-filled" as they "hang low" (they never hang high) in a "taut, smooth, hairless nutsac." Often it is specified that there are two of the "heavy orbs."

The derriere is almost always "hard" and "round." A man may have "bristly joy buns" or "smooth, luscious, round asscheeks." Often these are demarcated by a "blond/black hairy crack" which leads to the anus. The anus may be a "fuckhole," "pink pucker," "manhole," or "butthole." Sometimes it is simply an "asshole." It is nearly always modified as "hairy," "tight," "juicy," "gaping," "moist," "sweet," or "ripe." The anus may even be "hungry," in which case it is also probably "accommodating."



While presumably the people of Pornland have legs, these are rarely mentioned beyond the casual notation of "massive" and/or "rock hard" thighs. Feet only come up when they are relevant to the action of the story. In such cases they are invariably "well-formed" and "high arched."

Once these heroic anatomical endowments are detailed, they are quickly put to use. This may begin with some kissing, which is accomplished by "hungrily exploring" another's mouth. There may also be some licking of the smooth or hairy body, with a momentary pause to suck, pinch, or chew those protruding nipples. This activity invariably causes the

and!



penis to "swell," "bloat," or "reveal its thick length." Frequently it begins to "drip" as well. The dripping comes from the "puckered piss slit" which is located at the end of the "succulent, swollen cockknob," and consists of a substance named only in Pornland — "precum."

Once a penis has revealed its thick length and become "rock hard," it engages in a number of activities, some of which are quite remarkable. While it is sometimes "stroked," it is more likely to be "beaten," "pounded," "flogged," "whipped," "whacked," "jerked," and "jacked." The penises of Pornland thrive on this treatment. They also enjoy being "sucked" and "swallowed." The men of Pornland frequently find themselves with their mouths "stuffed with swollen dick," on which they must then proceed to "frantically work."

Alternately, they may find themselves "fucking the guts" of someone who just stopped by to fix the furnace. This usually begins by the penis being "pressed into the greasy lips" of the recipient's hungry hole. Once the "anal pucker" is "pierced," the man "eased forward,"

Bottom Man and offer him a beer. Mean Men just spit in the Bottom Man's face and leave. The difference between Bottom Men and Pig Slaves is that after two hours, the Bottom Man wants to get up off the floor and have a beer and something to eat. The Pig Slave wants the beer poured over his head and dinner served to him in a dogfood dish.

Just about everyone in Pornland engages in some sort of Sado-Masochistic behavior, ranging from a few "butt whacks" to being bound and feeling the "leather whip sting, raising angry red welts" on the back. More esoteric tastes are also indulged. More than one Bottom Man or Pig Slave has been caught in a "hosing" from a "glittering jet" that consisted of "hot, steamy piss shooting out of a fat, uncut dork."

Despite what it may seem given the above, interactions in Pornland are highly supportive, and all of the above activities are accompanied by a great deal of verbal encouragement. The men of Pornland — even the Mean Men — not only explain in great detail what they are doing or what is being done to them, they also provide constant feedback on the effectiveness of the actions. "Yeah, that's good, shove that hot fuck rod up my tight asshole." Or "Come on, chew on those hairy man tits, chew them hard," or "That's right, beat that fucking slab of manmeat." In such a supportive environment, it's not surprising that the characters soon find their testicles beginning to "boil" and "churn." Boiling and churning always presage orgasm in Pornland.

During orgasm, or "cumming," the men of Pornland release a "flood" of something, usually "hot jism," "hot spunk," "delicious juice," "hot searing cum," "rich hot cream," "creamy man juice," or "love slime." Flood is certainly an appropriate word, for the men often discharge "almost a quart" of creamy love slime during a single orgasm. Think of that.

All this flooding is accompanied by sound effects: "AAAAAARGHHHH!!!!", "AAAAAAHHHHHH!!!!", or "OOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHH, I'M CUMMING. TAKE IT, TAKE MY HOT CREAMY LOAD!!!!" Someone nearly always does, by the way. Every drop.

Things are wrapped up quickly in Pornland. It is assumed that the reader achieves his orgasm when the characters do, and having achieved it wants to wipe off his stomach, put the magazine back under the bed, and get on with his life. So, once both (or all) the characters are satisfied — and they always are — they are usually up, dressed, shaking hands, and amicably going their separate ways with a speed that is mind boggling. They may agree to see each other again, they may not. In any case, this particular visit to Pornland is over.

Time moves strangely in Pornland anyway. On the average, men meet, court, and consummate their relationships in the space of about eight minutes. Depending on the publication, it may be as short as two minutes, as long as twelve. Those activities that are the most time-consuming in real life — meeting someone, expressing mutual sexual interest, getting home, getting to bed — are accomplished with incredible speed and facility in Pornland. Even the sexual act itself moves very quickly. In Pornland, everything is to the point. The reader visits Pornland with one basic purpose in mind — orgasm — and while he wants some erotic build-up to heighten to sexual tension, extraneous detail is distracting and annoying to him, and may jolt him right out of Pornland.

This fear of jolting the reader out of Pornland has a mostly commercial motivation. To enter Pornland, the reader must be willing to suspend most of his disbelief. Clearly most readers are quite willing to do this. After all, your average gay man does not, in the course of everyday conversation, talk about "precum," "manskin," or "ripe buttocks." But when he visits Pornland he does, and he'll even revel in it so long as nothing disrupts the fantasy. Since so much disbelief must be suspended, however, the fantasy is easily disrupted, and the reader is momentarily jolted out of Pornland. Jolted too often, the reader turns the page. Eventually he picks up another magazine, possibly a competitor's.

Thus, having seduced the reader into buying the ticket to Pornland, the softporn magazines make every effort to coddle him. The photographs are of men attractive according to the prevailing middle-of-the-road norms of the gay community. The fiction is short and

easy to read, on the average, at a sixth or seventh grade reading level. The reader is encouraged to not so much identify with the characters as to read himself into the story and *become* the characters. For this reason nearly half of softporn stories are written in the first person. As much as possible, the ticket to Pornland is stamped "Satisfaction Guaranteed."

One result of all this is that Pornland is slow to take risks and notoriously resistant to change. It always has been. Before the rise of mainstream softporn, when Pornland was defined primarily in porn novels, it was a grim and tortured place, even after Stonewall. Its residents led furtive lives, fought losing struggles to repress their sexuality, and, with alarming frequency, either committed suicide or were killed in the end. Even after the rise of softporn, change usually came to the gay community sometime before it came to Pornland. Gay male interest in S&M, for example, was prevalent long before it was generally incorporated into Pornland. It took the wide distribution of *Drummer* to prove that S&M was indeed acceptable sexual activity. Similarly, uncircumcized men had acquired a cachet in the gay male community several years prior to their taking up residence in Pornland in any appreciable numbers.

But the winds of change are currently blowing in Pornland. How strongly they will blow and what impact they will have remains to be seen, but there are now several challenges to its cherished traditions, coming from both in and outside of Pornland. The first is a long-standing criticism that Pornland is racist. Black and latino men are allowed in only on a token basis, and their presence is permitted solely because of the racial/sexual mythology they represent. This mythology is often very clearly spelled out. Similarly, Asians are barred from Pornland, also on the basis of racial/sexual mythology. A related criticism has to do with the general lack of diversity in Pornland, its obsessive preoccupation with young, trim, muscular bodies, and, perhaps especially, those enormous tubes of man-meat.

But the newest challenge is to the very heart of Pornland: the type of sexual behavior in which its citizens engage. Pornland has a responsibility, goes one argument, to model safe, health-conscious sexual behavior. By continuing to print stories with unsafe sexual activity, that activity appears to be sanctioned. Defenders of Pornland argue that it is Fantasyland, and that fantasy is a form of safe sex. You can't contract AIDS by reading about rimming.

What is most interesting about all of these challenges is that they are coming from the very people who create Pornland, in particular from two publications that rest at opposite ends of the gay publishing continuum: *The Advocate* and *Straight to Hell*.

In June 1984 the mighty *Advocate* joined the softporn parade by introducing *Advocate Men*, clearly targeting it to become the king of "guppie" porn. The pilot issue pictured one Black model and two models with average-sized love logs. Even more startling were the porn video reviews, written by Fred Bissonnes, a long-time pron filmmaker who said flatly, "In these Plague Years it seems the pinnacle of moral irresponsibility for gay video-porn producers to persist in the depiction of oral ingestion of sperm in their new products."

The second issue of *Advocate Men*, in addition to including an Asian model and a story set in feudal Japan, contained this editorial notice: "Men won't be a 'lily-white' magazine. As they're available to us, we intend to present models who reflect the 'minority' members of the gay community.... And models over 40 will have a place in our nude photo features, as well." Reader reaction to these politics was, according to the editors, overwhelmingly positive. While it can certainly be argued that *Advocate Men* hasn't followed through on these lofty sentiments as well as it might, it still represents an open challenge to some of the established conventions of Pornland.

At the opposite end of the continuum is the raw challenge posed by the gritty "chapbook" *Straight to Hell* (STH) and the anthologies of its material such as *Meat, Sweat, Sex*, etc. Purporting to be authentic accounts of reader experiences (and I see no reason to doubt that), *STH* began as one of the small circulation,

Continued on page 10



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watching the penis "going in inch by fat, throbbing inch" as the "body wraps itself around the thick tube of male meat." The recipient is now ready to be "piston fucked" or "fucked raw" by "savage" or "deep, probing thrusts."

In addition to Regular Guys, there are several other personality types in Pornland, and their personalities influence the sorts of sexual activities they favor. There are Mean Men, Top Men, Bottom Men, and Pig Slaves. Mean Men are always Top Men, but Top Men are not always Mean Men. The difference between Mean Men and Top Men is that when Top Men are finished with the sexual act, they dust off the

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Pornland Fantasies

Continued from page 9

special interest publications on the fringes of the Porn Biz. *STH* was originally published by the eccentric and quirky Boyd McDonald whose avowed aim was to challenge the slick and, to his way of thinking, sanitized excursions into Pornland offered by mainstream softporn. The escapades chronicled in *STH* showed the rather astonishing variety of sexual behavior engaged in by men of every age, size, shape, and color. The tremendous reader response to both the chapbooks and the anthologies indicates that readers do in fact want more diversity in Pornland. (It should also be noted that *Drummer* has been no slouch in expanding the boundaries of Pornland.)

The last challenge comes from outside Pornland. The increasing-

ly conservative political climate, and the misguided anti-porn movement which seems bent on playing into the hands of the conservatives, threatens the very existence of softporn, and with it, Pornland. And that is a serious threat indeed, for despite its faults, Pornland is important.

Pornland affirms gay men by acknowledging, right there on the newsstand, that we exist, that we meet, that we love, and that we have sex together. Those who dismiss Pornland as one-dimensional and shallow miss the point. If Pornland is trying to reflect only one aspect of our lives, the sexual aspect, it is exactly this part of us which is most feared, hated and reviled. In reflecting our sexuality, Pornland celebrates the possibilities of being gay men.

Pornland is a relentlessly op-

timistic place. And that, I suspect, is a clue to its everlasting popularity. There are no closets in Pornland. Everyone is gay, takes it for granted, and rejoices in it — even Pig Slaves. Homophobes either don't exist or are punished. There is no real unhappiness, no disease, no AIDS, no fear, and no problem that cannot be solved by getting laid. In Pornland, hearts are never broken, lovers are never jealous, and no one ever has to wait for the phone call that never comes. The only desire is for sex, and that desire is always satisfied in spades.

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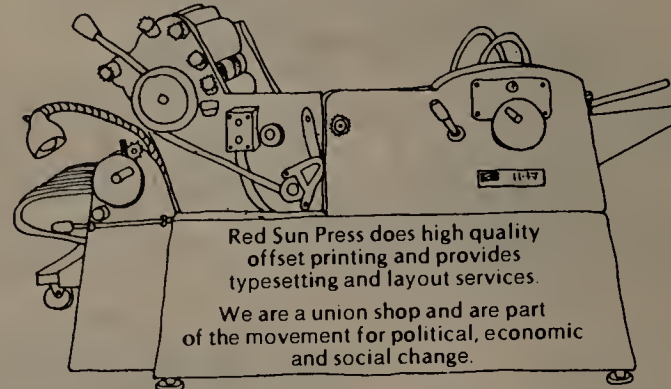
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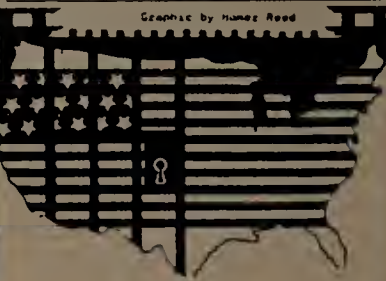
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 SASE for safe return. Steven L.
 Smith ed. GPP, L Bilton Rd,
 Somers CT 06071.



Prisoners Writing Prisoners
 States that DO (usually) let
 prisoners write other prisoners
 (though you may have to get
 permission): Ver/Mass/NY/Fla/
 NJ/Miss/Ohio/Ind/Kan/Tex/
 NM/Ariz/Cal/Ore/Mont/Wash-
 Lous/Neb/Mary.[In some of
 these you can't write others in
 your own state].
 States that DO NOT (or only dif-
 ficultly) allow prisoners to write
 each other are: Penn/Iowa/Okla/
 Nev/Idaho/WestVir/Wyo/Tenn.
 PLEASE SEND US ADDITIONS
 AND CORRECTIONS. Thanks!

I like nature, art and sucking big dicks
 (and taking them up my hot tit ass!) I
 would like to write someone. Race
 not an issue. Philip S. [Phillis] MOR-
 RELL, 50011, 4-K-5, 818 Jefferson Ave,
 Moundsville WV 26041.

If you like long walks on the beach,
 Barry Manilow, swimming, and com-
 passion perhaps, I'm the person for
 you. Dwayne BROWN, 30966-060, PO
 Box 2000, Lexington KY 40512.

May I be put on your list to get GCN;
 also I don't have any money at this
 time, but I still would like to meet
 some man. Please place an ad for me
 free. Seeking special tender loving
 care. Please write Marcus GOODWIN,
 30352, POBox 2, Lansing KS 66043

Sincere, feminine gay male, search-
 ing for that special guy! No hangups,
 race, age etc. I'm versatile, open,
 shy, loving. I love nature, animals,
 traveling, stamp collecting, music,
 gay literature and magazines, cooking
 and writing beautiful people! Please
 send stamp and pic if possible. Terry
 "Sunshine" BARKLEY, 173128, 3201
 Bemis Rd, Ypsilanti MI 48197.

Enjoy the ocean and the country, into
 weightlifting, and one on one relation-
 ships. Like camping and backpacking.
 (Not [just] a sex ad) Dennis JONES,
 394877, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS
 Please take the trouble to let us know
 about any bad experiences you have
 thru this penpal space (include names
 if you can so we can keep it a friendly
 place). Thanks, GCN Prisoner Project.

Bi male lonely wants correspondence
 with everyone! Looking for friend-
 ship. Love to work out, any way I can.
 Cass Allen LOUKOJARVI, 162167, 777
 W. Riverside Dr., Ionia MI 48846.

Long hair rock 'n roll faggot, likes
 Aldo Nova, Judas Priest, Molly Hat-
 chet, Scorpions. Wants letters from
 teenage boys, men. Your photo gets
 mine. Jimi CLARK, 114961, Box 500,
 Boydton VA 23917.

I dress in drag and have for some time
 now but can't because of my new
 misfortune at the time. Would like to
 be in your seeking friends space. T.A
 SHEPHERD, 178-335, Box 4571, Lima
 OH 45802.

I wish to create through cor-
 respondence a relationship with kind
 and compassionate persons. Thomas
 BARR, Box 137, Tillery NC 27887

**UNITY!
 STRENGTH!
 IMAGINATION!**



GAY PRISONERS

I give free psychic phenomena to peo-
 ple who contact me. I will also send
 personal formulas for love potients to
 the first one million gays or lesbian
 persons who request it (to make you
 gayer or lesbianer). Call me sexy.
 Richard LINDHORST, 290508, Box
 520, Walla Walla WA 99362

I seek either true queens, TV/TS ef-
 feminate gay persons to love. I'm
 Black, 30, intelligent, and understand-
 ing. Ernest SYKES, 101367, State
 Farm, VA 23160.

Is there anybody out there who really
 cares? I'm hoping for a parole soon.
 Looking for someone special who is
 interested in being a friend, lover or
 companion. Send photo if you like.
 Michael MARTIN, EF-131881, M-3 4/1,
 Reidsville GA 30499.

I'm going to school, staying in shape,
 playing chess for enjoyment, easy to
 get along with and versatile in many
 fields. I seek a meaningful relation-
 ship if possible. Frank POWELL, Box
 41, 18813, Michigan City IN 46360

Lonely male 30 looking for men my
 age or older for being a penpal. Lived
 in Brockton from 1971-76, so if
 anyone remembers me, please write. I
 am drying up from lack of outside
 communications. Also looking to be
 in touch with Allen Chase from Fit-
 chburg Mass. Thomas BRIMER,
 066283, Box 158 (G-089), Lowell FL
 32663.



TRY GCN's "GUARANTEED ROOMMATE" AD

GCN's "Guaranteed Roommate" offer All Roommate and Housemate Ads that are Prepaid for Two Weeks We will run until you find a roommate.
(Ads will not be automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted *only* on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

ROOMMATES

ROOMEZE
-LESBIAN/GAY-
-FEMINIST-
Roommate Matching Service
\$15 fee
Confidentiality Assured
CALL 641-3095
M-F 9-6/Sat 12-5

Gay man seeks gay man or lesbian to share small 2 bedroom apartment in the South End near the Boston Center for the Arts and the Dover MBTA station. Washer/dryer. No smokers or pets. \$215 plus util. Call 482-6029, leave message. (c)

LF, prof, 28 +, seeks lf to share house in rural N. Carver. \$250 mo. + 1/2 utils. 866-9540 eves. (10)

NEED A ROOMMATE?

I'm a charming resp chem-free L, moving to Boston for job. Need place to live, first floor. 413-586-2184. Call collect, I'll call you back. (12)

JAMAICA PLAIN

2 GW seek 3rd for lg sny 3 bdrm in JP, nr pnd & T. We are friendly, resp, indep. Seek same sauna dkrm lg bkyd. 161 +. Avail. 10/1. Amanda or Joyce 524-7184 (10)

F mother, 35, seeks ind. responsible, stable, clean, mature F to share lge comf house in Dedham near T. No pets, drugs prefer non-smoker. 275+ utils. Call 329-7632. Keep trying. Available October. (10)

SHARE APT.

L seeks I to share 2 bdrm apt in Newton Crn. \$273 + Available 9/15 great loc nr T & expways. Call 527-1552 eves best. Keep trying. (9)

2 LF's, 21, need rooms in JP by Oct. 1st. We are non-smoke + petless. Prefer semi-coop hse nr Arb + T. People should be funny and politically left. Is it any wonder I'm not the president? Call 524-8594 early and late. (10)

JAMAICA PLAIN

GM, 28, prof, quiet seeks resp. gm for neat, spacs, sunny pondside apt. 2 car garage, w/d, d/d, microw, frpl. No smoke/pets. Near to the T, Arboretum. \$387 +. Leave message. 524-0389. (11)

G Blk F, 30's, seeking a place to live. Up to 3 roommates ok. Gf, gm, or bi. I am responsible, sincere, mature adult with a good sense of humor. Stable, easygoing, employed, independent, friendly, clean, non-smoker, semi-veg. Can pay up to 280 + utils. Want to move by Oct. 1st. Near Boston area or T stop. Call Rose after 5pm or leave message 254-3729. (9)

GM shr 2 bdrm 1 fam house nr Inman Square Camb. Conv. to T. Piano, backyard, patio. Prefer veg/natural food oriented. \$365 includes util. Call Joe 491-5122. (9)

Muscleman/Athlete/Jock - enjoy Brookline home with doctor, 35, interested in exercise training and companionship. Pref 20-30 prof/grad student, quiet, neat, non-smoker. \$190/month includes utils. Near T. Available 9/1. PO Box 1482 Brookline, MA 02146 (9)

CAMBRIDGE—SOMERVILLE
Middle-aged, bisexual man wishes to share small apartment with stable, emotionally mature, financially responsible, communicative, considerate and cooperative person or couple. No pets or drugs please. Call David at 923-0082 at any hour. (c)

STOP!

DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL...

LF, 26, seeks housemate of my dreams - for 10/1. She has a sense of humor, is easy-going and enjoys hanging out. Me too. Nice apt. in JP near soon to be Orange Line, wd floors, wshr, 2 bedrooms, yrd. I have a cat and a sweet dog. No cigarettes, please. \$225 +. Call 522-4700 ext. 201 9-5/ 522-9117 after 5. (9)

Prof. L who travels has a beautiful 2 br condo to share. On the water, walk to beach and bus. \$350 + elec. Keep trying 331-1107. (9)

W25+ to share Beaut 7rm farmhs in Rosl near Arb. Sun Trees Skylights. 2rms are yours. No drugs, dogs. Cat ok. \$300. I'm 32, pianist. 327-3367 Dovidia. (7)

APARTMENT-MATE WANTED M/F

Your own fully furn. room in 5 room apt. complete kitchen priv., all appl., dw/wd. Ideal for student. 4 minutes to T and can take cat. \$185 + util. Call 288-4147. (9)

1 LF, 40, seeks 2 LF's 25+ to share spacious, sportive, spiritual household in Brookline, near T. Min drugs/alc. Rent \$220/month + util + pkg. Call 232-9089. Jasmine (10)

HOUSEMATES

SHARE COMFY NATICK HOME
We're looking for 2 lf's or a mom and a child to join our home. 25+, clean, responsible, non-smoker. No drugs/alcohol. No more pets (cats). Large yard, garden, woodstove, w/d, lake. Quiet neighborhood, close to Pike, Rte. 9, commuter rail. Large room - \$275 + util/ small room \$200 + utils. Call 655-8618 eves. (10)

HOUSING WANTED

Moving home to Boston. Responsible LF, 29 and my well-behaved dog need one or two bedroom apt. with access to yard. Quiet JP location preferred; will consider other neighborhoods. Would consider living with one lesbian in already established household. Yana 522-8156 or leave message at 491-3638. (c)

APARTMENTS

WEST MEDFORD
6 room duplex near trans, Tufts. Washer/dryer. \$600 month + utils. Avail. 9/15. 488-0932 evenings. (9)

APARTMENT FOR RENT DORCHESTER
Renovated, 6 room, 2 bdrm, hdwd floors, w/d hookup, eat in kitchen, back porch and yard, owner occupied. \$500/month, no utils. Call 282-3216 after 6:30. Non-smokers preferred. (9)

WEST MEDFORD APARTMENT

Sunny 4 rm 1st floor of lesbian household. Convenient to T on st. pkg. \$500 month no utilities, no dogs, cat maybe?!? Call Wessling & Beekman at 483-3685. (11)

REAL ESTATE

Condominium, spacious 1 bedroom duplex 1088 sq. ft, secure bldg, all new systems, exposed brick, working fireplace, bow windows. \$179,900 by owner, leave message 267-9795 (9)

SERVICES

MASSAGE BY MICK HAZEN

Relaxing, energizing synthesis of shiat-su, acupressure, muscular work + reflexology. Dietary recommendations. Call 522-9164 (11)

JOHNSON HOUSEKEEPING

Reliable staff for all of your general cleaning needs. Commercial and residential. 367-7184, 24 hours. (10)

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP

Openings. Group focus is on intimacy, gay identity, relationships. Individual therapy is also available. Sliding fee. Call Francis Giambrone at 628-6988 (yr)

ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS

By discreet mail. 12 years supplying males fitting garments and counsel. Send long SASE for free information to PS CO Box 91 Wellesley MA 02181 (11)

MASSAGE LEGIT.

Therapeutic massage using a variety of techniques. Nine years of experience. Call Naomi at 926-5626. Please use answering machine. Quick call back. (11)

BACK BAY COUNSELING SERVICES DENNIS IADOROLA
Serving the Community Since 1974
Insurance Accepted
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MASS. BAY COUNSELING ASSOCIATES COPLEY SQUARE
INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES AND GROUP COUNSELING
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INSURANCE ACCEPTED
(617) 739-7832 for appt.

RESORTS

WHITE MOUNTAIN MAGIC

Long, lazy days by the pool, cool nights by a crackling fire. Peace and privacy on 100 scenic acres. Charming guest rooms, gracious common areas. Pool and hiking at the Inn. Canoeing, antiquing, golf & tennis nearby. Make this a summer to remember. The Highlands Inn, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace & Judi inn keepers. (10)

MAINE AT ITS BEST BLUEBERRY COVE CAMP

IS OPEN TO October 15th. Cabins, camping, fish and vegetarian meals, organic garden, boats, beach, lodge with fireplace. Write HRC 35, Box 520 Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860. Tel. (207) 372-6353. (14)

GREENHOPE FARM

All woman guest house in VT's MT's. Horse-back riding on premises. Cozy private rooms. Fall foliage from mid-Sept. thru Oct. Veg. cuisine. Farm animals. Friendly and informal. (802) 522-7772. (9)

BRINLEY VICTORIAN INN

Explore Newport but let us harbor you with warm + friendly service. romantic Victorian decor. fresh flowers. cont brkfst. (401)849-7645. (13/1)

VERMONT GUESTHOUSE

Bed and cont. breakfast for Lesbians and Gay men in a country village house. 2 hours from Boston. Year round. Near lakes, hikes, skiing. Dave and Mike (802) 348-7840 (yr)

GABRIEL'S

Guest rooms and apartments. Centrally located. Hot tub, garden patio, cable tv, coffee. 104 Bradford St. Provincetown, MA 02657. Reservations: (617) 487-3232. Open year round. (yr)

CHECK'ER OUT AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Double rooms, coffee bt fireside, pkg, apts. also available. 1 block bay, open year round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St. P'town, MA 02657 (yr)

THE GREENHOUSE

Women's Guesthouse, cozy, comfortable, parking, cont. bkfst, off season rates. 18 Pearl St., Box 22 P'town MA 02657. (617)487-2270. (O)

MOVERS

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Gay owned business
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No job too big or too small
Very Careful Movers 641-1234

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Licensed and Insured
MDPU 24184 We care
522-0826

ORGANIZATIONS

GAY LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, discussions, potluck dinners, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN Calendar. Call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11 Camb, MA 02238.

HETEROSEXISM, RACISM

Sexism, anti-Semitism, multicultural issues. Workshops by national consultants for your organization (municipal, professional, political educational) or business. Contact Equity Institute in Amherst, MA at (413)256-6902. Co-directors Carole Lanigan Johnson, J.D., and Joan Lester Ed.D. (?)

N AMER MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOC

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD, PO Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (v. 13, no.22)

SELF-EMPL. OR SM. BUS. OWNERS

Support group for F women who are self-emp/small bus. owners. Dealing with issues of mgmt., isolation etc. Call 628-1175 leave message for Ginny (9)

D.O.B.

Suppt orgnztin for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb, Old Bap Chr. Raps evry Tues, Thurs 8pm. Special raps for 35+ parents; yngr wmn; baby bmrs; singles; coming-out; issues forum. All 8pm. Mnthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (0)

LESBIANS

Are you Lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go? Come join us at BAGLY.

Call Tony, 497-8282

(13/32)

"JOHNNY DIED TODAY..."

14 year old Joey will blow out his brains, Eddie will overdose & David will slash his wrists in the days to come. All because you're too scared to protect them. SASE for info, \$2 stamps 64 page newsletter. \$20 subsc/mbrshp. "REALITY INC.," PO Box 73, Paramus, NJ 07653. (0)

GCN SPECIALS

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Do you know of places where people could benefit by having GCN around? Are you ever at places and wonder why we aren't there too? Well, we need your help to get us around town (and out of town too). So if you have ideas where GCN could be distributed and would like to help us accomplish that give Brian a call at 426-4469. It will be much appreciated. Thanks! (c)

FOREX TRAVEL

76 Arlington St.

Phone 482-2900

LOW AIRFARES FROM BOSTON

London	\$199ow	Pittsburgh	118rt
Paris	239ow	Philidelphia	98rt
Amsterdam	199ow	Lima	629rt
Los Angeles	258rt	Tokyo(NYC)	729rt
Montreal	79rt	Hong Kong(NYC)	829rt
New York	66rt	Mexico City	375rt
Quebec	142rt	Seattle	258rt

Gay Cruise
SS Bermuda Star
• New Orleans •
• Cozumel (2 days) •
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from \$795.00
Feb. 15 thru 22, 1986

*\$135 *
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ALL AIRLINES
LOWEST PRICES
NO SERVICE CHARGE



TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).



Maybe lesbians who read my last ad thought I was BI-SEXUAL — NO WAY — I'm a Lesbian thru & thru, since childhood. Please run this ad: Lonely Lesbian (Single) needs other lesbians (don't believe in labels) who have time and care enough to write. Kathy Jo ELLIOTT (aka Johnni), 800697-A, Box A Unit H Cage 3, Oakdale IA 52319. [Can't write other prisoners].

I would like to correspond with free world people. I am Greek passive. I have photos to exchange with those that make the time to write. I have a myriad of interests. Won't you people out there start writing. Thank you. Kenneth JOHNSON, 17322, PO Box 607, Carson City NV 89702.

I'm a professional free-lance cartoonist with 3 yrs of college and a major in psych. Was given your name by another boy-lover here in the Kansas Prison System. It is very lonely with no one to talk to who has similar "tastes". I am much harassed here and need some outside friends. (I also belong to NAMBLA). Charles C. COMBS, 42231, PO Box 1568, Hutchinson KS 67504.

Versatile openminded gay 32 firm lean muscular body Taurus by sign well educated and seeking correspondence from TSs and TVs or other liberal minded gays. All sincere letters will be answered in a meaningful and intelligent fashion. Also activist, writ-writer, and loveable to the Special Someone. (Can write other prisoners). Chester Vinton HAAS, 327322A, Ellis I (J-23-106), Huntsville TX 77343.

Prisoners Seeking Friends

Prisoner ("Legal Eagle", GCN has resume if needed), needing some job support for December parole. B.A. & J.D. degrees, 10 years legal work, paralegal instructor experience. Documentation and references. James ROMERO, 28522, Box 1059, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Prisoner writing article on adjustment of gay prisoners back into society once they leave prisons. Would like some feedback. Please write Charles E. SKINNER, 36286, Box 2800, Lincoln NE 68502.

TS outside wants penpals inside! Ex-prisoner who understands the need for contact with the outside would like to hear from TV/TSs about your abuses in prison (and your dreams!). Write Ariel North Modeling Agency, AltN: Misty Stevens, PO Box 230, Clearfield KY 40313.



25 yr old redhead with ARC would like to hear from anyone with info to offer and who'd like to correspond. Gregory SCOTT, EF-150765, ACMI IA-6 Hosp, 3001 Gordon Hwy, Grovetown GA 30813

My nickname is 'Teddy Bear' and I have dreamy blue eyes and am interested in reading, writing and a down to earth person like myself. Life alone in here is a real bummer. Paul WESSON, 398503, Ellis II, Huntsville TX 77340.

Lonely male, brown skinned, very handsome, would like to write someone. Photo appreciated, but not necessary. Julius EVANS, 303333, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

Tall slender male seeks friendship or more. From any intelligent person who desires friendship longterm, no secrets or jealousy. Send long descriptive letter and recent photo if possible (and SASE). Gary DITGES, Box 2, 25329A, Lansing KS 66043.

GM down for some years. Likes quiet times, music and reading. Looking for someone to write to share thoughts and desires. No games. Honesty important. Thank you GCN for all you do for us prisoners here! Harry HART, 47219, 2605 State St., Salem OR 97310.

Lonely blond, graygreen eyes, likes black lovers but anyone can write. Collect photos, lively sense of humor. Edward PATTERSON, 31522-066, Box 7000, Texarkana TX 75501.

Attractive, hedonistic, athletic youth, numerous and varied interests, seeks taste of freedom through correspondence. Nolan Mark MACKEY, 47840, 2605 State St, Salem OR 97310.

Extremely handsome young black man wishes to correspond with a sincere person. Some of my hobbies include reading, writing poetry. I'm somewhat shy, but will answer all letters promptly. LeRoy ARRINGTON, 175003, Box 45699 Lucasville OH 45699.



CALENDAR

September 7 to September 23

7 saturday

Cambridge — Pat Parker, Black lesbian poet, reads to benefit GCN. 8PM, Paine Hall, Harvard Univ. Reception and book-signing to follow. \$5 more or less. Wheelchair accessible and sign interpreted. Info: 426-4469.

Jamaica Plain — South Africa Photographs by Susan Dorfman. J.P. Licks, 468 Centre St. Continues till 10/1. Info: 524-1793.

8 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Films on Nicaragua, South Africa & Beirut sponsored by Alliance Against Women's Oppression. 94 Green St. 7-10PM. \$5. Info: 522-8728.

Boston — *Boy Meets Boy* benefit for David Scordras. The Metro, 15 Lansdowne St. \$4. Info: 266-0735.

Peabody, MA — Wild Women bicycling. North Shore Shopping Center, by Filene's. 10AM. Bring lunch & water. Info: Nique, 646-9372.

Boston — Cruise to P'town with Tri-County Assoc. 11:30AM, Pier 4, Charlestown. Return 11:30PM. Lunch, dancing, movies. \$25, advance; \$30 at the boat. Info: 429-6593.

9 monday

Boston — Benefit banquet for AIDS conference sponsored by Boston Institute for Social Therapy & Research. Icarus Restaurant, 540 Tremont St. 7PM. \$25 donation. Info: 524-7710.

Boston — Auditions for the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. Arlington Street Church. 7:30PM. Info: 482-6983, or P.O. Box 1348, Back Bay Annex, Boston 02117.

10 tuesday

Boston — LEGACY, Lesbian & Gay Aging Cycles. Clarendon St. YWCA, 2nd floor library. 6-8PM. All invited. Info: 725-3307.

Cambridge — "The Stages of Dating," coming out group for women. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge — Teach-in on Central America. MIT, Room 10-250. 7PM. Info: CASA, 492-8699.

West Somerville — Forum of Salvadoran and Guatemalan Refugees. Havurat Shalom, 113 College Ave. 7:30PM. Info: New Jewish Agenda, Central American Task Force, 623-3376.

11 wednesday

Brookline — Brookline Human Rights Ordinance organizational meeting. Info: Zev or John, 445-8662.

Boston — "Cloud Nine" by Caryl Churchill. New Ehrlich Theatre. 539 Tremont St. 8PM. Continues till 10/19. \$7-\$12. Info: 482-6316.

12 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night when articles are proofread and pasted up. Join the fun; read tomorrow's news today. 5-8PM for proofing, 7:30-midnight for lay-out. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Beantown Women's Rugby: new members welcome. Practices Tuesday & Thursday evenings. Info: Kerry, 738-8358 or Lou, 969-4861.



David Scordras, September 17

13 friday

Boston — GCN's VOLUNTEER NIGHT: come help send the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments & good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") To be let in, buzz GCN's intercom outside the street entrance. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Squat Theater's "Dreamland Burns" with Eszter Balint. Longwood Theater, Mass. College of Art, 364 Brookline Ave. 8PM. \$10/\$8.50 students. Through 9/21. Info: 232-1555, x504.

Cambridge — Lesbian Reading Group discusses *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Maine — Libana Choral Workshop for Women. Weekend program. Blueberry Cove Adult Camp. Info: (617) 395-1920, or (207) 372-6353.

14 saturday

Cambridge — GCN benefit showing of *Pink Triangles*, panel on homophobia to follow. 8PM, Paine Hall, Harvard Univ. \$4, advance; \$5, door. Info: 426-4469.

Cambridge — Lesbian Singles Games Night. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

15 sunday

North Chatham, NH — Blueberry Ridge Trail Day-Hike sponsored by the Chiltern Mt. Club. New & women members especially invited. Info: Michael, 522-9194.

Cambridge — Rosh Hashanah services with Am Tikva. Bring sweets, wine and juice for after the service. MIT rm. E25-111. 7:30PM. Info: Priscilla, 628-3973 or David, 623-3366.

Boston — North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance night at Greystone's. 8 Kingston St. 8PM. \$5. Info: 745-3848.

Boston — Metropolitan Community Church of Boston: "Celebration of a New Ministry." Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St. 7PM. Info: 523-7664.

17 tuesday

Boston — Fundraising Party for David Scordras: *Athenian Night* at Greystone's, 8 Kingston St. 7-10PM. \$5. Info: 266-0735, or 894-8363 after 6PM.

Salem — *The Times of Harvey Milk* presented by North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance. Screening Rm., Meier Hall, Salem State College. 7PM. Free. Info: 745-3848.

Cambridge — Sanchin Women's Karate & Self-Defense School fall classes begin. 595 Mass. Ave., Central Sq. Info: 628-3110.



Hunter Davis, September 20

Worcester — Metropolitan Community Church meeting for gays & lesbians in the Worcester area. 90 Holden St. 7PM. Info: 755-8974.

18 wednesday

Boston — Boston Bisexual Women's Network discussion: "Labels: What Do They Mean Anyway?" Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. 7PM. Info: 491-8334.

19 thursday

Boston — "Gay Boston" on Cable TV. (Repeat broadcast from Aug. 29) Access Channel A3. 8PM.

Dorchester — Dorchester GALA monthly meeting. Codman Square Public Library, 690 Washington St. 7PM. Info: Ed, 288-4367 or Diane, 288-9155.

20 friday

Cambridge — Hunter Davis, pop/folk feminist, to perform. Modern Times Cafe, Hampshire St. Info: 354-8371.

Cambridge — Donna — *Women in Revolt*, Italian feminist film. Angry Arts, YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. \$2.75. Info: 625-9279.

21 saturday

Boston — "ARTcetera '85" art auction to benefit the AIDS Action Committee. Boston City Hall. Info: 536-7733.

Dorchester — Dorchester GALA Flea Market & Bottle Drive. 9AM-4PM. Info: Ed, 288-4367 or Diane, 288-9155.

Boston — Girls' Night Out concert. Hatch Shell, the Esplanade. 7-9PM.

22 sunday

Brighton — Brookline/Brighton/Allston gays & lesbians (BBANGL) last summer picnic potluck. City View Park, Summit Ave. Noon. Info: Ross, 787-3775.

Northampton — "Arts for Strength" benefit for Valley Women's Martial Arts, Northampton Center for the Arts. 2PM. \$8-\$25, half-price under 17, over 59. Sign interpreted. Info: 527-0101.

Waltham — Suburban lesbian & gay dinner and discussion. Open to all. 6PM. Info: Mark, 893-8717.

Cambridge — Cambridge GALA monthly potluck supper. Info: Lynn, 876-4141.

Boston — "Passage to Kenya — Passage to Justice," Joyce King & other Passage to Kenya members. The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Copley Square. 11AM.

23 monday

Boston — "AIDS in Hollywood" on Evening Magazine. WBZ-TV Channel 4. 7:30PM.

note this!

As is discount theater coupons

New York City Discount coupons for tickets to *As Is*, a play about AIDS, are now available to the gay and lesbian community. Peter Bogyo, c/o Albert Poland, 226 West 47th St., 4th fl., New York, NY 10036, (212) 354-2040.

"AIDS and Spirituality"

September 28 New York City The Metropolitan Community Church of New York will sponsor this afternoon forum at the Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 208 W. 13th St. Registration: 11:30-12:30, program: 1-6 p.m. Ecumenical worship service to follow, 7 p.m. at 201 West 13th St. For more details, call Rev. Jim Mitulski (212) 242-1212.

Third Woman Press Awards

Deadline: October 31 Awards for women of Hispanic descent who celebrate women's friendship in the following categories: Poetry. Short story or an excerpt from a novel in progress. Autobiographical recollections of girlhood and/or adolescence in the barrio. Visual Arts — 8x10 black & white or color glossies of any of the visual arts. Entries may be in English and/or Spanish, and must be accompanied by SASE and short bio of yourself and your work. They should be clearly marked, "Third Woman Award Entry." *Third Woman*, c/o Chicano-Riqueno Studies, BH 849, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405.

AIDS conference workshop proposals

Deadline: October 1 Day-long conference sponsored by the AIDS Action Committee on November 2, 1985. Workshops should be 90 minutes long and designed to maximize group participation. Include brief self-description, pertinent qualifications, whether you can offer the workshop twice, and contact phone numbers. Topic areas range from political to legal, medical, social, and spiritual. Education Subcommittee, AAC, 16 Haviland, Boston 02115.

Women's Studies Proposals

Deadline: October 1 "Women Working for Change: Health, Cultures and Societies": NWSA convention, June, 1986, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. For membership form and proposal cover sheet form: Gray and Rice, Co-coordinators, NWSA '86, Office of Women's Studies, UIUC, 304 Stiven House, 708 South Mathews Ave., Urbana, IL 61801.

Celebrate Unity and Diversity

October 19-20 Amherst A conference for gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals. Workshops (parenting, racism, health, relationships, etc.), panels, films, socials, awards banquet, and dance. Physical assistance, sign interpretation, childcare, housing, and stipends available. Conference, P.O. Box 118, Amherst, MA 01004-0118.

Woman of Power/Women of color

Deadline: November 15 Call for material by women of color: poems, art, photos, fiction, plays, essays, biographies, organizational profiles, etc.; from all countries, cultures, ages, social classes, and feminist, sexual, and spiritual backgrounds. To explore socio-economic and psychological realities, causes of these realities, and ways to change them. *Woman of Power*, Issue 4, P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238.

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

PINK TRIANGLES

*a film about prejudice against
lesbians and gay men*

a benefit showing for

Gay Community News

The recent rise of homophobia will be discussed by some of the filmmakers and members of the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee

Saturday, September 14th

8:00 p.m.

Paine Hall

wheelchair accessible

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Four Dollars in Advance

available from Gay Community News

Five Dollars at the door

Behind the Science Center

Harvard Square T stop

Pink Triangles was produced by the Pink Triangle Collective for Cambridge Documentary Films, Inc., a non-profit filmmaking and distribution organization. Rental/sale of the film is available. Contact the Cambridge Documentary Films at P.O. Box 385, Cambridge, MA 02139, (617) 354-3677.

YES, I would like to buy _____ tickets at \$4 each.

Enclosed is \$ _____.

I am unable to attend the screening, but would like to contribute \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

RETURN TO:

Gay Community News/Pink Triangles

167 Tremont Street

Boston, MA 02111

All contributions are fully tax deductible.

*Checks may be made payable to GCN or Gay Community News
for more information call GCN at 426-4469*